

# Your Caring Connections

Elara Caring  
Hospice Foundation



Fall 2025



“  
“You gave us a  
wedding day with  
Janet, something  
we thought we’d  
lost forever.”  
”

All made possible because of you!



# Because of You, Janet Was There

At 90 years old, Janet Steinmetz of Marblehead/Lakeside, OH, faced a heartbreaking reality. Her Alzheimer's diagnosis meant she couldn't attend her granddaughter's wedding. But you changed that story.

Because of your generosity, Janet's hospice team transformed her own lakeside home into a stunning wedding scene. With family visiting from across the miles, the setting, complete with beautiful decorations you helped provide, became the perfect stage for smiles, embraces, and quiet moments of joy.

Janet could not speak, but her family's gratitude poured out: "It was the most beautiful setting... these photos will be treasures we keep forever."

You didn't just give them decorations. You gave them a once-in-a-lifetime moment. You gave them the gift of Janet being part of her granddaughter's wedding day, right on the shores of the lake she loved.



Your heart makes all the difference!

# A Donor-Powered Dream



## Bringing the Beach to Charlotte

Ms. Charlotte, a hospice patient living alone, longed to feel the sand between her toes and hear the waves of the ocean, but travel was no longer possible. Thanks to your generosity, the Ada/Shawnee Hospice Team brought the beach to her. As Chaplain Steve Mills reflected, “While the experience for Charlotte was virtual, the joy radiating from her soul was very real.”

With a lei around her neck, her feet in a small pool of water, soft ukulele music playing, and a drink in hand, Charlotte was transported to a tropical paradise. “I don’t have any stress, I’m at the beach.” she said, smiling from ear to ear.

You did not just fund a VR experience. You gave Charlotte joy, freedom, and the fulfillment of her last wish.

[elaracaringhospicefoundation.org](http://elaracaringhospicefoundation.org)



# A Young Life, A Last Wish Fulfilled

At just 16 years old, this young hospice patient is facing the unimaginable—his life being cut short far too soon. Despite his illness, he continues to find comfort and joy in the simple things he loves, like playing video games.

When asked about a final wish, his request was humble yet deeply meaningful: an Xbox Game Pass Ultimate subscription so he could enjoy the games that bring him peace and connection.

For a moment, he was able to escape into a world of adventure and laughter, reminding everyone around him of the resilience, spirit and hope that can still exist in the face of great difficulty. Even in his final days, he continues to teach those who care for him the true meaning of joy in the moment.

## Sylvia's Farewell Feast

Sylvia's final wish was simple: to gather her large family for a seafood boil. On August 16th, surrounded by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, she celebrated with laughter, stories, and love. Even with a fading appetite, she enjoyed crab legs and cake, savoring precious moments with those she loved most. Just days later, Sylvia passed peacefully with her beloved dog by her side. Her family finds comfort knowing she said goodbye in the most meaningful way—surrounded by joy, love, and cherished memories.

## A Story of Devotion and Heart

At just 34 years old, a young man faced a private battle with a terminal illness, keeping his condition hidden until it had progressed to the point that he needed full-time care. His devoted aunt left her job to care for him while raising her five children, a true act of love and sacrifice.

Despite her unwavering dedication, the family faced overwhelming challenges. Applications for assistance and benefits were still pending, and limited resources left them unprepared for the costs and confusion that followed his passing. Thanks to the generosity of the Elara Caring Hospice Foundation, a grant was provided to help cover the cost of funeral arrangements, bringing much-needed relief during a heartbreaking time. Through it all, the family remained united in love, finding strength in one another as they navigated their grief.

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## Freedom on Wheels

For Nancy, 74, living with COPD often meant her world was confined to the walls of her home in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Even simple tasks like stepping outside to enjoy the fresh air or visiting neighbors could be exhausting and anxiety-inducing.

Thanks to your generous support, Elara Caring Hospice Foundation was able to gift Nancy a brand-new mobility scooter. The surprise arrived faster than she expected, and her excitement was palpable. “I called my daughter immediately and told her to guess what happened... I was too excited to keep it in!” Nancy shared.

The scooter has given her more than mobility. It has brought independence, freedom and peace of mind. Nancy now enjoys venturing outdoors, visiting neighbors and simply savoring a change of scenery. “All my neighbors keep complimenting me and are so happy that I am able to get around again,” she said.



# Want to recognize a caregiver who truly impacted your family?

The Elara Caring team members who entered your lives did so at a difficult time where trust, compassion and competence were essential.

To honor the “Hospice Hearts” who have gone above and beyond the routine care of Elara Caring’s patients and families, you have the unique opportunity to say THANK YOU by nominating staff who have made an impact on you and your loved one’s life.

**Please visit our Foundation website to recognize your caregiver.**



## GRANT CATEGORIES

**Patient Needs**

**Bereavement Support**

**Last Wish Request**

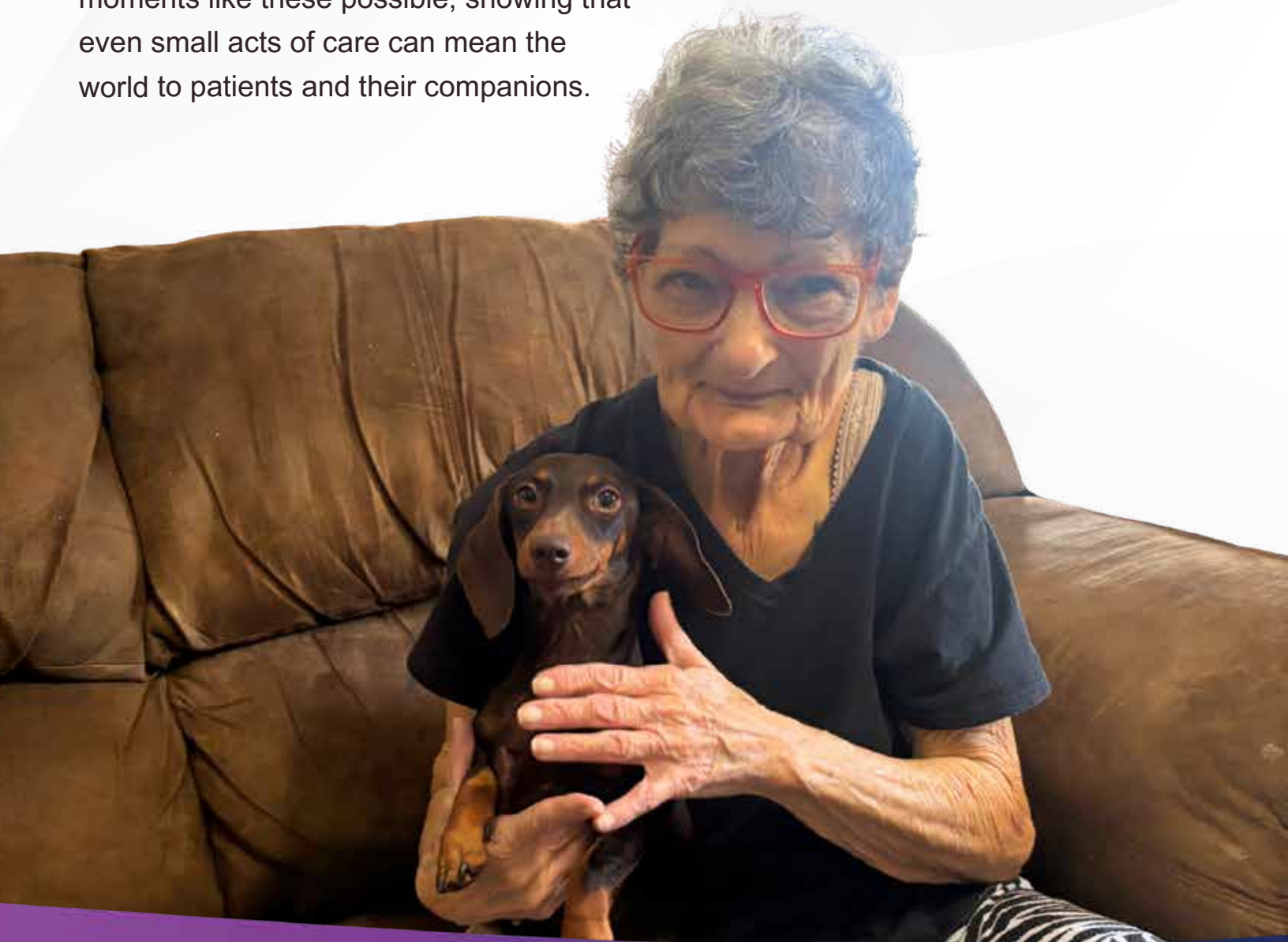
**Virtual Reality Recreative Intervention**



# Joy on Four Paws - Meet Dawn

Juanita faces the challenges of life on hospice while managing a serious illness. Through it all, one source of joy remains unwavering, her support dog Dawn. When Dawn needed veterinary care, the Elara Caring Hospice Foundation stepped in to cover the bills, ensuring her beloved companion received the treatment she needed. “During each visit, she expresses how thankful she is to have Elara Caring and the Hospice Foundation in her life,” shared her social worker Brittany.

Thanks to you, Dawn remains healthy, wagging her tail and lifting Juanita’s spirits every day. The gift of care extends far beyond medicine, providing the comfort of knowing her loyal friend is safe, loved, and well cared for. Your generosity makes moments like these possible, showing that even small acts of care can mean the world to patients and their companions.



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# A Small Gesture, A Lasting Impact

The Elara Caring Hospice Foundation's mission is to enrich the lives of terminally ill patients and their families through personalized support and compassion at every step of the hospice journey. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we can provide comfort, peace and dignity to those facing life's most difficult moments.

At just 55 years old, Robert faced the heartbreaking reality of terminal heart failure. Living in a small trailer in Oklahoma, the summer heat often became unbearable. His limited mobility made it nearly impossible to manage the temperature inside, leaving him exhausted and uncomfortable most days.

But on his birthday, a simple act of kindness changed everything. Through the support of the Hospice Foundation, Robert received an electric fan with a remote control, something small, yet deeply meaningful. The relief was immediate, and so was the joy. His mother shared how grateful they both were for the comfort it brought.

"There is nothing that Elara staff can do or say to reverse a terminal prognosis," shared Robert's social worker, Molly O., "but with the help of the Hospice Foundation, we can improve quality of life in meaningful ways."

While the world could not give Robert more time, it gave him something equally powerful, comfort, dignity, and the reminder that he was not alone.

Because of you, moments like these happen every day. Your generosity transforms small gestures into lasting impact, easing pain, lifting spirits, and reminding families that even in life's hardest moments, compassion shines through. Together, we make a difference, one act of kindness at a time.

  
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