RIVER CITY
— HOSPICE —
"Our family taking care of your family"



The History of Hospice

A Compassionate Approach to Care That Has Grown Worldwide

Hospice care began as a human-centered movement to bring comfort, dignity, and support to people facing a life-limiting illness — and to their families.

Medieval Times

ROOTS IN HOSPITALITY

The word "hospice" comes from the Latin word *hospitium*, meaning "a place of welcome." Early hospices provided rest and care for travelers, the sick, and those at the end of life.

1960s

THE MODERN HOSPICE MOVEMENT

Dame Cicely Saunders, a British nurse, physician, and social worker, founded the first modern hospice — St. Christopher's Hospice in London (1967). She pioneered a model of care focused on comfort, pain relief, and holistic support.

1970s–1980s

GROWTH IN THE UNITED STATES

The hospice philosophy spread to the U.S., with the first hospice program opening in 1974. Awareness and access grew throughout the 1980s.

1982

A NATIONAL BENEFIT

Medicare established the hospice benefit in 1982, making hospice care more widely available to eligible patients across the country.

Today

A CARE MODEL FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

Hospice is now a recognized, compassionate standard of care that supports quality of life, honors personal wishes, and provides comprehensive care for both patients and their loved ones.

A Lasting Legacy of Compassion

From its roots in hospitality to today's comprehensive care, hospice continues to focus on what matters most — comfort, dignity, and support at every stage of the journey.

Questions about hospice?
Contact River City Hospice. Our team can explain services, eligibility, and next steps.

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