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**In-Home Palliative Care for Advanced Dementia Patients**

**Submitted By:**

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**Awarded on June 01, 2022**

**Amount: $30,000**

**Snowline Hospice & Supportive Care**

**6520 Pleasant Valley Road**

**Diamond Springs, Ca. 95619**

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In-Home Palliative Care for Advanced Dementia Patients

This program focuses on the unique needs of dementia patients and their families living in rural El Dorado County without access to palliative care due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Snowline Supportive Care has provided specialized in-home care to more than forty-nine patients since the award of our first Inspiration Grant in 2021. These individuals and their caregivers have experienced improved quality of life, relief from distressing symptoms, access to 24/7 nurse services, and support with end-of-life decision-making that supports the individual and family's wishes.

Since receiving the Inspiration Grant in June of 2022, Snowline has applied lessons learned from 2021 and completed a review of our marketing strategies and care delivery model. This review prompted us to make changes enabling us to reach more physicians, community service agencies, and hospital discharge planners, all of whom have not allowed in-person visits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also improved our program’s care delivery model by converting to a social work model where a Nurse Practitioner and Social Worker work collaboratively to develop a patient-focused care plan. These efforts have resulted in thirty referrals to our Supportive Care program since early June 2022.

These thirty patients with advanced Dementia have caregivers who provide for all their daily needs, from bathing, toileting, dressing, and meal preparation to paying bills and managing households that have little to no support. These patients and caregivers benefit from our collaborative approach to care. Our outcomes continue to remain positive, with 99% of patients having a Physicians Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment that focuses on their personal goals for end-of-life and action plans to address any identified symptoms that would send them to the emergency room.

Snowline's executive leadership is currently in the process of developing a strategic framework that embodies our mission and includes initiatives that support the pursuit of high-quality patient care and sustainable operations. According to the California Department of Finance, population growth in the counties we serve is expected to grow by 15% by the year 2040. While most of this growth is expected in the Sacramento area, El Dorado County is expected to grow by approximately 11%, and more than half that growth is to be among those 65+. As the population grows, the “Silver Tsunami” will also bring with it an epidemic of Alzheimer’s Disease and other dementias, where an estimated 1 in 9 individuals over the age of 65 will be diagnosed with this dreadful disease.

The challenges that population growth brings to Snowline and the communities we serve are several. A lack of palliative care programs that specialize in home-based palliative care and a dwindling number of not-for-profit hospices. In 2004 there were four not-for-profit hospices, and now we have more than fifty hospices, all for profit. This growth has led to large amounts of fraud, waste, and abuse and a subsequent ban on new hospice licenses by the State of California. The support from the communities we serve is why Snowline considers the challenges population growth brings as an opportunity to strengthen our footprint in El Dorado County and grow market share in both Sacramento and Placer counties.

Prior to January 2023, Snowline exhausted all grant funds but continued to serve individuals with dementia and their caregivers with funds from donations and fundraising events. Snowline remains grateful for the Women’s Fund El Dorado Inspiration Grant and the opportunities it has afforded us. Your support has led to Snowline being awarded the 2022 Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative (ADPI) – Grants to States and Communities program.

**Success Story**

Twenty years ago, an individual joined Snowline’s Board of Directors and worked tirelessly supporting our mission and serving our community until they could no longer do so. In June of 2022, we received a referral to Snowline Supportive Care, and we were able to admit him to service. He and his partner received disease education, symptom management, and help with placement into a facility where he would receive care and his partner could focus on her own health. After a few months, he continued to decline, and he was admitted to hospice services. Hospice services brought more care in the form of emotional and spiritual care, and a home health aide to make sure he was kept clean, warm, and dry. His registered case manager and the hospice medical director help keep him comfortable and free from pain and difficult symptoms. His partner stayed at his side, and they shared tender moments, life review, and much more until he passed comfortably, peacefully, surrounded by family and friends.

Thank you for supporting our mission and helping to make El Dorado County an even better place to live!

**Budget Report**

