

Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. Frequently Asked Questions

What does Hospice mean?

Hospice comes from the Latin root for “hospitality” and “hospitable”. The term has been adopted to describe emotional, social, physical and spiritual care for the terminally ill and for those who care about them.

What is Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc.?

Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. is a local non-profit human services agency which provides free counseling, case management, support groups, respite care, complementary therapies, and volunteer services to people impacted by life-threatening illness or grieving the death of a loved one.

As a Volunteer Hospice Organization, Hospice of Santa Barbara can serve anyone who is experiencing the impact of life-threatening illness or death regardless of the patient’s diagnosis, treatment choices, or life-expectancy.

Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. is a “Volunteer Hospice”. What is a Volunteer Hospice?

As a non-profit organization, we are able to serve people who are ‘actively’ being treated for a life-threatening illness as well as those in active bereavement. Volunteer Hospices in California are not required to be licensed as long as they do not provide skilled nursing or charge a fee. The state Attorney General monitors operations.

Aren’t there two Hospices in Santa Barbara? What is the difference?

In Santa Barbara there are two Hospice Organizations: Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. which is a Volunteer Hospice, and Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care (VNHC) which is a medical model Hospice.

The medical model (VNHC) can provide care when a prognosis of 6 months to live is given to a patient. Medical hospices focus on relieving physical pain associated with end of life. Medical Hospices are paid for through Medicare, Medicaid and private insurances.

What specific services does Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. provide?

- Counseling and Emotional Support
- Support Groups
- Case Management
- Respite Care by Trained Volunteers
- Volunteer Services

- Complementary Therapies

How do people find out about Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc.?

Referrals from many community partnerships, physicians, friends or family members, through the local media, community events like Light Up a Life and Sadie Hawkins, or the internet (www.hospiceofsantabarbara.org and www.facebook.com).

How do I receive services from Hospice of Santa Barbrara, Inc.?

Call our office at 805-563-8820 and our experienced intake social worker will listen to your needs and asses how we can help.

What happens when I call Hospice of Santa Barbara?

Our office is open from 9am – 5pm. When you call during business hours our receptionist will answer the telephone. If you are calling and are in need of our services, our receptionist will transfer your call to an experienced social worker. The social worker will listen to your needs and will offer the appropriate Hospice of Santa Barbara Services. Hospice of Santa Barbara is partnered with other local social service agencies and can make referrals when necessary.

Do you provide services to Spanish speaking clients?

Yes, our clinical staff and palliative care team include members who are bi-lingual.

Do you provide services to children and teens?

Yes, Hospice of Santa Barbara offers individual and group counseling. We also offer a mentor program for children and teens. I Have A Friend® matches children who have recently lost a parent or sibling with an adult who experienced a similar loss in their childhood. Children as early as 2 years old can benefit from Hospice of Santa Barbara's support.

What are the types of support groups that Hospice of Santa Barbara provides?

There are 13 ongoing monthly support groups. See our website www.hospiceofsantabarbara.org for a list of current support groups or call 805-563-8820.

What is palliative care?

Hospice of Santa Barbara's Palliative Care Consultation Service is a collaborative effort between Cottage Hospital, Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care, and our staff. Working together, we provide pain and symptom management, emotional and spiritual support to patients at Cottage Hospital and their families. Bereavement care is offered to the surviving family members.

How many people does Hospice of Santa Barbara serve?

Hospice of Santa Barbara serves people living in Santa Barbara County. In 2007, Hospice of Santa Barbara served 524 patients and 690 clients, totaling 1,214 people.

What is your annual operations budget?

\$2.5 million per year.

How is Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. able to support its self?

As a non-profit, Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. depends on the generosity of the community. Volunteers are integral and critical to the work of Hospice of Santa Barbara. There are currently over 150 volunteers who serve as patient care volunteers, mentors, support group co-facilitators, and administrative volunteers. Patient care volunteers and the services of Hospice of Santa Barbara would not be possible without the strong commitment from volunteers and financial support of the community.

How can I help?

The simplest way to help Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. is to make a financial donation. Donations can be made on our website www.hospiceofsantabarbara.org.

Volunteering your time is an invaluable way to help. All Hospice of Santa Barbara, Inc. volunteers participate in a comprehensive training program. The Patient Care Volunteer training program meets one time a week over eight weeks, and the Mentor Volunteer training program meets once a week for six weeks.

To learn more about how you can help call 805-563-8820.