



Your support  
helps when  
it's needed  
MOST

# YOUR GIFTS at WORK



AWARDED MISSION GRANTS 2021





# THANK YOU!

Awarded Mission Grants 2021 - January 1 - December 31, 2021

After facing the unprecedented challenges of 2020, we can reflect with even greater appreciation on the gift of life and the opportunity to change the lives of others. Your support of the Home Nursing Agency Foundation is making a real difference for our most vulnerable friends and neighbors.

These community members rely on the services of Family Hospice, UPMC Home Healthcare of Central PA, the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program, the AIDS Intervention Project, Pediatric Home Connection, and Early Intervention.

Throughout 2021, \$171,950 of your support will be used to directly impact patients, clients, and families in West Central Pennsylvania. This report includes the 2021 Mission Grants, along with stories of how previously awarded funds have made a profound impact.

Your support funds...

...*life* necessities like food and heat

...*life*-enriching opportunities for Family Hospice patients

...*life*-giving hope for grieving children and families

**Quite simply, your donation gives life. Thank you!**

## FAMILY HOSPICE

*Physical, emotional, and mental health care for patients with life-limiting illnesses and their caregivers*

**\$22,200** to fund the following:

- patients' emergency funding for utilities, food, air conditioners, medications, and other essential items such as bed sheets and pillows
- educational and spiritual materials for both patients and caregivers, including large-print resources
- stationery and other items for supporting bereaved family members after the patient's passing
- photographer equipment use and travel to capture final family photo of hospice patient and family
- life-enrichment opportunities for patients, like an anniversary meal or materials to do a hands-on project
- licensed therapists to perform music, relaxation, massage, and other non-medical therapies
- recognition of volunteers for their gifts of time and presence to support patients and caregivers
- special American flag blankets presented to patients who are veterans
- day-long retreat for widows in Family Hospice service area
- emergency funding for bereaved family members

### *Resting in comfort*

Diagnosed with COPD and cancer, Blair County resident Elvis could not lie flat to sleep and was able to rest only when seated in a recliner. When his recliner broke and he had no funds to replace it, your donations allowed Family Hospice staff to purchase a new recliner for him to rest as comfortably as possible.

## UPMC HOME HEALTHCARE

*Specialized care including nursing and therapy after an injury, illness, or surgery impacts quality of life*

**\$7,700** to support emergency funding of essential items for patients, such as nutritional supplements, medications, one-time funding for utilities or groceries, and to provide weekly pill planners for successful medication management

### *The weight of prevention*

Weight changes can be a warning signal of what can become an emergency need for patients with chronic conditions like heart failure. Tracking weight regularly is vital to managing these conditions, but this is impossible for patients who are not able to use traditional scales. Your donations purchased large-capacity talking scales that are housed at each office and utilized for patients as needed. Access to accurate and easy-to-use scales can prevent unnecessary ER visits and hospitalizations.

## HEALING PATCH

*Free support services for grieving children and their families*

**\$117,000** to fund family group sessions, in-school groups for children who could not attend family groups, alternative virtual support (during COVID-19 pandemic), other grief resources, and recognition of volunteers who are vital to the program's operations

### *Virtual group connects grieving kids*

During an adult virtual group session, a new member indicated that she is seeing a difference in her daughter after attending several virtual sessions in the middles room. She explained that her daughter is "more open to talking about the loss and her feelings." She further elaborated, "What made the difference is that she now realizes she isn't the only kid that lost someone. During the virtual sessions, she sees other kids similar to her age going through a similar experience. Just knowing this and doing activities to talk about her feelings has helped her so much already."

### *Family activities open the door to conversation*

In addition to virtual group options during the pandemic, the Healing Patch is mailing grief activity packets directly to families to complete together at home. One grandmother raising three grandchildren after a parental loss recognized that the packets provided an opportunity to reach two of her grandchildren who were unwilling to attend traditional family group sessions if they had been held. The child who wanted to participate is now leading the home activities with her younger brother and older sister. Grandma shared that it is so nice to see them reading grief books together, talking about the loss, and doing these activities as a family. One example was the book reading *When Dinosaurs Die* and answering questions about loss, feelings, and ways to remember our loved ones. The child read the book to her siblings, which led to watching *The Land Before Time*, a family film in which the mother dinosaur died, creating space to explore their grief as a family.



## AIDS INTERVENTION PROJECT (AIP)

*Supportive program and case management for adults with HIV/AIDS*

**\$4,250** to assist with transportation, utilities, and personal and hygiene products for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS and living below the poverty level and to fund incentive items for clients to participate in nutrition initiatives

### *Access to necessities*

All AIP clients benefit from the “volunteer cupboard” of cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products, as most of them are low-income. However, one client who really benefits is wheelchair-bound and has difficulty getting around when going to the grocery store. Typically once a month, one of the AIP staff will visit her and provide items that she needs. This alleviates some of the stress of searching for certain items and allows her to spend less time in the store.

## PEDIATRIC HOME CONNECTION

*Care of medically fragile children who are technology-dependent or dealing with chronic and life-limiting conditions*

**\$3,500** to cover additional shifts of nursing care for family respite and therapeutic items, such as special cribs and high chairs, that support the child’s comfort and education

### *Supplying emergency nutrition*

Lily receives all her nutrition through a specialty formula via tube feeding and is one of multiple medically fragile individuals in her home. When her supply company had a mix-up and did not send her formula in a timely manner, Lily was going to run out within a day. Her parents cannot afford this formula on their own, so your support purchased this specialty formula that was delivered by her nurse in the nick of time.

## EARLY INTERVENTION

*Therapy-based service to help children ages 0-3 with developmental delays*

**\$3,000** to provide the following: feeding equipment, communication boards, developmental/therapeutic materials such as adapted walkers and standers for children with multiple disabilities

### *Creating a word picture*

Since the onset of COVID-19, Early Intervention visits have been conducted virtually, forcing staff to creatively help young clients meet developmental goals. Your donations purchased laminating supplies for families to receive durable picture cards by mail as a tangible communication tool. Parents work with children to name what’s pictured, find them by request, and pair them with actual objects to transfer that skill to daily routine activities. The pictures also serve as a bridge to communication when they don’t have words yet, according to Early Intervention Manager Diane Ringler. “I have had two little girls who have learned many new words with the cards we’ve sent, and they love doing this activity ‘on camera’ for video sessions.”



PO Box 352  
Altoona, PA 16603-0352

To make a gift today,  
please call or go online:  
1-855-GIVE-HNA  
(1-855-448-3462)  
HomeNursingAgency.com

For more information  
about Foundation Mission  
Grants please contact:  
Kim Helsel, Director of  
Development/Marketing  
Communications  
at 814-947-7024 or  
email foundation@  
homenursingagency.com

The official registration and financial information of Home Nursing Agency Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list please contact the Home Nursing Agency Foundation at 1-800-992-2554.