

## Cordt Kassner

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December 22nd, 2023

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## Headlines

### [\*\*Washington Post Investigation on Elopements Puts Memory Care in the Spotlight\*\*](#)

*Senior Housing News*

December 20, 2023

A series of investigations from the *Washington Post* on resident elopement and staffing has shone a new light on memory care operators and the challenges they face keeping residents safe. One of the *Post* stories, published over the weekend, centered on residents who wandered away from memory care communities since 2018, almost 100 of which died. Most of the incidents involved residents of memory care communities, and among the struggles highlighted were staffing shortages and improper training. The story represents a new source of scrutiny for an industry that has intermittently struggled with bad press since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### [\*\*Caring for Dementia during the holidays\*\*](#)

*Valley Times News (Lanett, AL)*

December 20, 2023

The holidays can be a stressful time for everyone, but they pose a unique challenge for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, or those living with dementia and their caregivers. Dr. Joe Downs, from the Chattahoochee Hospice, said checking on caregivers of people with dementia is important all year around, but it can be especially important during the holidays.

## Hospice Provider News

### [\*\*Hospice, Home Health Providers ‘Squeezing Turnips’ Competing for Clinical Staff\*\*](#)

*Hospice News*

December 20, 2023

Hospice and home health care providers’ recruitment and retention strategies have narrowed their focus on workers’ key priorities, with organizational culture among the heaviest hitters on their lists. Amid workforce shortages, hospice and home health providers are often at a disadvantage when it comes to competing with other health care organizations that can have greater financial resources, according to Bill English, president and CEO of Accurate Home Care.



## Accelerate Results Accelerate Growth Accelerate Learning

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### **Concord Hospice Care Center To Expand Thanks To \$10K Gift From Bank**

*Concord (NH) Patch*

December 20, 2023

Concord, NH—New Hampshire’s largest home health and hospice care center is one step closer to expansion and renovation thanks to a \$10K donation from Merrimack County Savings Bank.

### **Community Foundation Boosts Mahoning Valley Nonprofits with \$972,402**

*The Business Journal (Youngstown, OH)*

December 20, 2023

Youngstown, OH—The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley and its affiliates awarded \$972,402 to 39 local organizations. ... Additionally, the Hospice Trust of Trumbull County granted \$100,000 to Ohio Living Home Health and Hospice.

### **Lassus Donates To Stillwater Hospice**

*Times Union (Warsaw, IN)*

December 19, 2023

Warsaw, IN—Lassus Handy Dandy, 777 Parker St., Warsaw, presented Stillwater Hospice with a \$2,610 donation Tuesday. Store Manager Lora Bridegam said from Nov. 7 to Dec. 1, all the Lassus stores do the “Be a Blessing” fundraiser, which is a tradition Lassus has done for years. The donation came from customers choosing to round their purchases up.



## HOSPICE ANALYTICS

TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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## [\*\*Auxiliary gives \\$60,000 to Hospice\*\*](#)

*Crossville Chronicle, 12/21/23*

Cumberland House Hospice Auxiliary recently donated a \$60,000 check to Hospice of Cumberland County Board of Directors President Jim Oswald.

## **Palliative Care Provider News**

### [\*\*Brisas Health Unveils New Supportive Care Service\*\*](#)

*Palliative Care News*

December 20, 2023

Puerto Rico-based Brisas Health has launched a new supportive care service in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the organization's founding. The program, branded as Brisas Supportive, will provide palliative care services for patients suffering from chronic illnesses, including services that not universally covered by health insurance plans.

## **Clinical News**

### [\*\*Fralin Museum of Art Uses Art to Prepare Future Doctors for End-of-Life Care\*\*](#)

*Hyperallergic*

December 18, 2023

For nearly a decade, future nurses and doctors enrolled at the University of Virginia have attended a workshop at the school's Fralin Museum of Art to help prepare them for end-of-life care, a historically under-discussed subject in medical schools that has been increasingly incorporated into curricula in recent years.

### [\*\*Hospice of the Chesapeake celebrates highly successful first year with NICHE\*\*](#)

*Anne Arundel (MD) Patch*

December 20, 2023

Pasadena, MD—Hospice of the Chesapeake is celebrating the graduation of seven registered nurses and 46 certified nursing assistants in a prestigious training program. It marks a highly successful first year as a member of the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders, or NICHE, program of New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing. The program helped the not-for-profit hospice organization train nurses to become key leaders in the NICHE Leadership Training Program.

### [\*\*UnitedHealth, OptumRx sued by independent pharmacy over 'unconscionable' fees\*\*](#)

*Healthcare Dive*

December 20, 2023

UnitedHealth and its pharmacy benefit manager OptumRx are being sued by an independent pharmacy for allegedly strong-arming pharmacies into agreeing to "unconscionable" performance-based fees, threatening their financial health.

## **Regulatory News**

## [Steward Health Care hit with False Claims Act lawsuit](#)

*Healthcare Dive*

December 20, 2023

The federal government is suing Dallas-based Steward Health Care and its facilities, Steward Medical Group and Boston-based St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, for violating the False Claims Act and a physician self-referral law, according to a Monday announcement. The complaint, filed in Massachusetts District Court, alleges Steward Medical Group improperly linked a lead cardiologist's compensation with his referrals, leading the group to award him nearly \$5 million in incentive-based pay—and violating physician self-referral rules, known as the Stark Law.

## [Think tank raises fraud, waste allegations within New York's home care industry](#)

*McKnight's Home Care Daily*

December 20, 2023

On Tuesday, New York's state assembly heard proposals regarding expansion of the healthcare workforce. But critics cautioned against overreach as the labor force is already "bigger and better paid than ever."

## **Mergers & Acquisition News**

### [Residential Hospice Acquires Safe Haven](#)

*Hospice News, 12/19/2023*

By Jim Parker

Residential Hospice has acquired Illinois-based Safe Haven Hospice from the senior living provider Christian Horizons for an undisclosed sum. The transaction expands Residential's presence in four Illinois counties. The company is a division of Graham Healthcare Group, a subsidiary of Graham Holdings Company (NYSE: GHC).

### [Brandywine Living acquired by Retirement Unlimited Inc.](#)

*McKnight's Senior Living*

December 20, 2023

Mt. Laurel, NJ-based Brandywine Living's senior living management platform is being acquired by Roanoke, VA-based Retirement Unlimited Inc., RUI announced Wednesday. Following the transaction, the combined company will consist of 59 communities with more than 6,739 independent living, assisted living and memory care units.

### [PwC—Cautious Optimism, Apprehension To Follow Nursing Home Dealmaking into 2024](#)

*Skilled Nursing News*

December 20, 2023

Dealmaking in 2024 comes with cautious optimism and some apprehension from industry leaders in health care, including those in the nursing home space, as deal volume continues to be buffeted by macroeconomic headwinds.

## [Froedtert, ThedaCare to launch combined system Jan. 1](#)

*Becker's Hospital Review*

December 19, 2023

Milwaukee-based Froedtert and Neenah, Wis.-based ThedaCare have finalized their merger agreement and will launch as a combined 18-hospital system Jan. 1.

## Post-Acute Care News

### [St. Louis Nursing Home Closes Suddenly, Displacing Over 170 Residents](#)

*New York Times*

December 19, 2023

There was no warning when a line of vans showed up outside the largest nursing home in St. Louis Friday afternoon, workers at the home said. Older residents, some with dementia, were whisked away in wheelchairs while still wearing hospital gowns, employees of the Northview Village nursing home recalled.

### [Dauphin County senior living facility announces closure; approx. 40 residents affected](#)

*WHTM-TV (Harrisburg, PA)*

December 18, 2023

Harrisburg, PA—A local senior care facility that is located in Harrisburg recently announced that it will be closing its doors.

### [ProPublica Adds Ownership Information to Our Nursing Home Database](#)

*Pro Publica*

December 20, 2023

The quality of care that residents receive in a nursing home can be profoundly affected by who owns it, studies have shown. It's not always clear who should be held accountable, though: Many nursing homes are owned by companies that are owned by other companies, obscuring who has the ultimate decision-making power. ... To help navigate the confusing world of nursing home ownership, ProPublica's Nursing Home Inspect now publishes detailed ownership information for facilities and an upgraded search to help you sift through the information.

### [Nursing homes still face data concerns, new audit says](#)

*Times Union (Albany, NY)*

December 20, 2023

Albany, NY—The state Department of Health largely failed to implement recommendations meant to improve infection control in nursing homes, according to an audit released by the state comptroller's office on Wednesday. The audit came as a follow-up to a March 2022 audit by state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's office that found data released by the Health Department "misled the public" and undercounted deaths in nursing homes.

### ['Now is the time' for hospital-at-home—Medically Home CEO](#)

*Modern Healthcare*

December 20, 2023

Rami Karjian, co-founder and CEO of Medically Home, understood the possibilities of leveraging technology to deliver hospital-level care outside facilities when he helped launch the Boston-based company nearly a decade ago.

### ['Death Doula' allowed to keep business open following ruling by federal judge](#)

*WANE-TV (Fort Wayne, IN)*

December 20, 2023

Fort Wayne, IN—A Fort Wayne woman who provides end of life guidance for clients can keep her business open for now. Lauren Richwine had been forced to stop operating Death Done Differently after receiving a cease and desist order from the Indiana Attorney's General office claiming she does not hold a funeral director license for herself or a funeral home license for her business. On Tuesday, U.S. District Court Judge Holly Brady issued a preliminary injunction which allows Richwine to keep the business open while her legal challenge to the claims she's violating Indiana's funeral home laws plays out in the courts.

## Technology / Innovations News

### [Skilled nursing seniors support VR with eye-popping enthusiasm, latest study shows](#)

*McKnight's Senior Living*

December 20, 2023

Virtual reality is having a moment. Last month, a study showed that VR tools can help establish stronger ties between seniors and their caregivers at long-term care communities. Now, new study results show that seniors in skilled nursing facilities believe using VR tech overwhelmingly helped address feelings of loneliness and social isolation.

## General News

### [Report—Death rates in older adults dropped overall prior to pandemic](#)

*McKnight's Long Term Care News*

December 20, 2023

Death rates for adults 65 and older fell from 2000 through 2019, according to a new report that analyzed death rates among older adults prior to the pandemic. The National Vital Statistics Report was published on Dec. 15. Data in the report came from the National Center for Health Statistics between 2000 and 2019.

### [Healthcare organizations hiring, retaining more employees—Fitch](#)

*Modern Healthcare*

December 20, 2023

Hospital employment numbers have increased, while healthcare job openings are on the decline—though the industry is still recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

About 17.2 million individuals were on the payroll at healthcare organizations in November 2023, compared with 16.6 million in December 2022, according to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **[Patriot Hospice in Trumbull County takes patient on one last 'hunt'](#)**

*WFMJ-TV (Youngstown, OH)*

December 20, 2023

Patriot Hospice in Trumbull County gave one of their patients a special present just before the holidays this year. Through a program called "A Moment in Time with Patriot," the organization took patient Richard Ansback on a special day where he got to 'hunt' through the new Bass Pro Shop in Niles. ... During the tour, Ansback got the chance to shoot a crossbow at a target in a special room built specifically for shooting.

## **Today's Encouragement**

"We get so frustrated and weary chasing the perfect holiday season that we never take time to enjoy the one right in front of us." Joshua Becker

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