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Hospice Provider News

[Hospice tech helps Scottsdale patient](#)

Scottsdale (AZ) Progress, By Lin Sue Flood, 12/22/23

ALS has changed John Rosso's life, but not in the way one might imagine. The cheery-natured Scottsdale resident doesn't focus on what he can no longer do. Instead, the 73-year-old channels his energy into pushing boundaries and overcoming challenges posed by the neurodegenerative disease. ... Hospice of the Valley's unique Pulmonary Resource Program supports patients with neuromuscular diseases, emphysema, pulmonary fibrosis, lung cancer, COPD and other conditions that affect breathing.

[Editor's Note: The author is Director of Community Engagement for Hospice of the Valley, Phoenix, AZ.]

Clinical News

[Las Vegas teen leads holiday donation for kids in hospice care](#)

KLAS-TV (Las Vegas, NV), 12/21/23

Las Vegas, NV—A 14-year-old Las Vegas teenager is doing what she can to make the holiday a little merrier for children in hospice care. Aiyana Castro led her third Christmas donation drive with her mother for hospice patients in the Las Vegas valley. ... The donation drive team is focusing on children being treated by ProCare Hospice of Nevada, ... "Doing this stuff is not just helping the kids that are on our service," ProLife Child Life Specialist Brooke Kowalski said. "But it's helping everyone who is involved in their medical journey."

[Medical marijuana bill coming back to Wisconsin in January. Here's what else is ahead on pot legalization in 2024.](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/20/23

At the start of this year, it seemed possible that Wisconsin's marijuana laws could change, and the state would join 38 others in offering a medical-use program. That prospect came and went in 2023. But the momentum could pick up again in the new year. In a year-end interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said Republicans will reintroduce a medical marijuana bill in January.



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Mergers & Aquisition News

[Why Hospice M&A Could Rebound in 2024](#)

Hospice News, 12/22/23

After a 2023 slump, health care dealmakers are voicing optimism for a 2024 rebound. Transaction volume declined in the hospice and home-based care space in 2023, following the two record-breaking prior years. Only three hospice deals took place in the third quarter of this year compared to 11 in Q3 2022 and 18 in the same period in 2021, according to data from the M&A advisory firm The Braff Group. But projections from Braff and PriceWaterhouseCoopers could signal an upward trend in the new year.

Post-Acute Care News

[Baptist Health eliminates leadership positions](#)

South Florida Business Journal, 12/21/23

Baptist Health South Florida eliminated 190 leadership and non-clinical positions through voluntary separation and other labor reduction measures in recent months, according to the health system's report to bond investors. The Miami-based nonprofit, the largest hospital operator in South Florida, filed its report for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

[Home-delivered meals may delay nursing home placement, study finds](#)

McKnight's Long Term Care News, 12/21/23

A new study comparing fresh versus frozen meal delivery programs for homebound older adults with dementia found that enrolling people in Meals on Wheels is feasible for helping them delay placement in nursing homes. The study also concluded that ready-to-eat meals beat out frozen meals in postponing nursing home placement. Home-delivered meals promote food security, socialization and independence in older adults who are homebound.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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[148 assisted living workers will share in \\$5.5 million wage theft settlement](#)

McKnight's Senior Living, 12/21/23

Almost 150 senior living caregivers in California will share in a \$5.5 million settlement, the state's largest judgment in a residential care facility wage theft case. The settlement includes a \$2 million award announced Dec. 6 by the California labor commissioner's office, bringing the eventual payout to caregivers at Adat Shalom Board & Care to \$5.5 million.

Adat Shalom operated six assisted living communities in West Hills, CA, and provided services for residents living with dementia or Parkinson's disease, as well as hospice care. A seven-year investigation into the company found that from July 2014 to July 2017, live-in workers at Adat Shalom's facilities were paid less than the minimum wage, were denied overtime and did not receive meal or rest breaks, according to the labor commissioner.

[St. Francis Medical Center workers fired 5 days before Christmas](#)

Los Angeles Daily News, 12/22/23

Striking workers at St. Francis Medical Center who have openly complained of understaffing and inadequate patient care were fired Wednesday, Dec. 20, just five days before Christmas.

Technology / Innovations News

[Chatty robot helps seniors fight loneliness through AI companionship](#)

Associated Press/Washington Post, 12/22/23

Coral Springs, FL—Joyce Loaiza lives alone, but when she returns to her apartment at a Florida senior community, the retired office worker often has a chat with a friendly female voice that asks about her day. A few miles away, the same voice comforted 83-year-old Deanna Dezern when her friend died. In central New York, it plays games and music for 92-year-old Marie Broadbent, who is blind and in hospice, and in Washington state, it helps 83-year-old Jan Worrell make new friends. The women are some of the first in the country to receive the robot ElliQ, whose creators, Intuition Robotics, and senior assistance officials say is the only device using artificial intelligence specifically designed to alleviate the loneliness and isolation experienced by many older Americans. "It's entertaining. You can actually talk to her," said Loaiza, 81, whose ElliQ in suburban Fort Lauderdale nicknamed her "Jellybean" for no particular reason.

General News

[Beloved Buffalo Hospice campus cat passes away](#)

WGRZ-TV (Buffalo, NY), 12/22/23

Buffalo, NY—Buffalo Hospice & Palliative Care shared the sad news that a cat who wandered onto the property during the pandemic has passed away. The campus's beloved black cat 'Biggie Smalls' had become the unofficial mascot of the care facility in the spring of 2020 when he showed up at their doors. Biggie welcomed patients along with their family, friends, and caregivers on a daily basis.

[Hospice patient granted wish of meeting penguin at Mystic Aquarium](#)

WTNH-TV (New Haven, CT), 12/22/23

Mystic, CT—Mystic Aquarium played host to a special visitor on Wednesday to give her a every special experience. It's been more than 30 years since Denise Oliver has been to Mystic Aquarium. Visiting and being able to pet a penguin, she said, made her "like a kid."

“Oh my God, I can’t believe I’m actually touching a penguin,” she said. Oliver is on hospice care at Civita Care Center at West River in Milford. “People kind of see [hospice] as the last little bit of their life, but it’s supposed to bring a celebration for all that they’ve done, and be able to enjoy the things that they like to do,” said Tayler Klein, the director of social services at the Civita Care Center.

International News

[End-of-life care 'no better than it was 70 years ago'](#)

The Guardian (United Kingdom)/Yahoo! News, 12/21/23

Loneliness afflicts the majority of people at the end of their life, according to a report that found palliative care has not improved in 70 years. Poverty, social isolation and not being able to die where they want are all common issues causing “considerable hardship” for people as they die. Despite advances in healthcare since 1952, the “end of life care system has not kept pace”, the charity Marie Curie concluded in an analysis comparing care today with 70 years ago. It found that 97 per cent of carers were looking after patients who were lonely at the end of their life, while less than a third said people they cared for were always able to die where they wanted.

[Assisted dying Scotland—Sir Keir Starmer backs call for change in law as Dame Esther Rantzen champions move](#)

The Scotsman (Edinburgh, Scotland), 12/22/23

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer has backed calls for a change in the law on assisted dying. The cause has been championed by Dame Esther Rantzen, who has called for politicians to grapple with the issue for the first time since 2015. The 83-year-old Childline founder and broadcaster has stage four lung cancer and earlier this week said she has joined the assisted dying clinic Dignitas. The Labour leader, who backed a change in the law the last time the issue was voted on in the Commons in 2015, acknowledged it would have to be addressed carefully.

Other News

[Hospice Staff Promotions and Additions Announced This Week](#)

- SCAN Group, a diversified not-for-profit healthcare company whose holdings include SCAN Health Plan, one of the nation’s largest and fastest growing not-for-profit Medicare Advantage plans, announces that Sara Crate has been named CEO of Homebase Medical. Homebase Medical is a provider group that provides palliative care, chronic disease management, care transition management and in-depth personal health assessments to people in their homes. ([News Release](#))

Today's Encouragement

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. ~John 16:33

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