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December 27th, 2023

Contents

1. [Labor activity in long-term care may be poised for 'enormous' growth in 2024](#)
2. [Rosalynn Carter's impact on caregivers](#)
3. [Porter County nonprofits leave ARPA funds on the table because paperwork isn't filled out](#)
4. [10 Hospice Professionals Complete Innovative Professional Program](#)
5. [Merchants Bank gives \\$20K to local nonprofits](#)
6. [Hospice receives gift](#)
7. [Pohai Malama Adult Residential Care Home hosts open house](#)
8. [Truth-telling to the seriously ill child – Nurses' experiences, attitudes, and beliefs](#)
9. [Hospice brings holiday joy to senior center residents](#)
10. [In the Shelter of a Weeping Beech](#)
11. [Connecticut shouldn't prevent nurse practitioners from operating independently](#)
12. [State bill would allow doctor-assisted suicide in some cases](#)
13. [After the chaotic closure of a St. Louis nursing home, will others also shut down?](#)
14. [Ohio hospital, vendor hit with class action suit after data breach](#)
15. [Today's Encouragement: Kwanzaa ... important and timely](#)

Headlines

[Labor activity in long-term care may be poised for 'enormous' growth in 2024](#)

McKnight's Long Term Care News

December 21, 2023

Heightened union activity frequently made headlines this year, including among healthcare workers who loudly raised concerns about pay and staffing. Multiple factors make it likely that the trend of rising labor activity in long-term care will continue in 2024, experts say.

Rosalynn Carter's impact on caregivers

By R. Lynn Barnett

Blog

Kevin MD

December 25, 2023

... As caregivers, we are the voice for others, but we also need to be a voice for ourselves. ... I wasn't prepared, as many people aren't, for the fiscal and physical aspects of caregiving. ... The toll that caregiving can take is often underrated, understated, and underappreciated. ... Rosalynn Carter was known as a "Steel Magnolia," showing the same inner fortitude and mettle, combined with grace, of the main characters in the film of the same name. I think all of us caregivers become steel magnolias. It's not that we deserve a medal for our actions; we just deserve a little peace.

[Editor's Note, Joy Berger for Hospice and Palliative Care Today: Rosalynn Carter founded the Institute for Caregiving 35 years ago, preparing for the surge of Baby Boomers' aging and caregiving needs. Her memorable quote lives on: "There are only four kinds of people in the world--those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers." Visit www.rosalynncarter.org for more information.]

Hospice Provider News

Porter County nonprofits leave ARPA funds on the table because paperwork isn't filled out

Post-Tribune of Northwest Indiana (Gary, IN)/Chicago Tribune

December 25, 2023

Four hundred fifty thousand dollars is nothing to sneeze at, yet VNA Hospice of Northwest Indiana, a nonprofit Porter County chose to receive that share of \$33 million in American Rescue Plan Act grant money, has yet to fill out the necessary paperwork to receive the hefty donation.



Accelerate Results
Accelerate Growth
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10 Hospice Professionals Complete Innovative Professional Program

Eye on Annapolis

December 24, 2023

Two social workers, three chaplains and five registered nurses are being celebrated for completing an innovative professional program pioneered by Hospice of the Chesapeake. The Clinical Ladder program, launched in early 2023, recognizes team members for their clinical expertise, professional and educational achievements, and contributions to the hospice team as well as the full organization.

Merchants Bank gives \$20K to local nonprofits

Cullman (AL) Tribune

December 24, 2023

Cullman, AL—For three decades, Merchants Bank has hosted its annual Charity Classic golf tournament in early October, working to raise funds for local nonprofits. This year, the donation checks totaling \$20,000 came just in time for Christmas for Cullman Caring for Kids, Brooks' Place and Hospice of Cullman County [and other community agencies]. Each nonprofit received a check for \$6,000 ...

Hospice receives gift

The Journal (Martinsburg, WV)

December 26, 2023

Martinsburg, WV—Maria Lorensen, development director of Hospice of the Panhandle; Patrick Broderick, trustee; Mark Jordan, senior vice; Matt Butts, surgeon; Bob Affeldt, trustee; Linda Snidemiller, Ladies Auxiliary president; Pete Faith, junior vice; Steve Luthardt, quartermaster; and Art Schur, commander of the VFW Post 4019. The VFW presented Hospice with a \$10,000 gift right before the holidays in gratitude for the agency's care for veterans.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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Pohai Malama Adult Residential Care Home hosts open house

Hawaii Tribune-Herald (Hilo, HI)

December 25, 2023

Hilo, HI—After closing its doors to inpatient services last year, Pohai Malama will be reopening as an adult residential care home beginning next year. Hawaii Care Choices,

formerly Hospice of Hilo, earlier this month announced the opening of the Pohai Malama Adult Residential Care Home to a room full of board members, supporters and community leaders. The former 12-bed hospice and palliative care inpatient facility, located at 590 Kapiolani St. in Hilo, was closed in November 2022 after operating for 10 years due to changing preferences from patients, many who preferred to be treated in their homes.

Clinical News

[Truth-telling to the seriously ill child – Nurses’ experiences, attitudes, and beliefs](#)

Nursing Ethics, Sage Journals

First published online December 21, 2023

Mandy El Ali, Sharon Licquirish, Jenny O'Neill, and Lynn Gillam

Background: Nurses play an integral role in the care of children hospitalised with a serious illness. Although information about diagnostics, treatments, and prognosis are generally conveyed to parents and caregivers of seriously ill children by physicians, nurses spend a significant amount of time at the child’s bedside and have an acknowledged role in helping patients and families understand the information that they have been given by a doctor. Hence, the ethical role of the nurse in truth disclosure to children is worth exploring.

[Hospice brings holiday joy to senior center residents](#)

Newburyport (MA) News

December 25, 2023

Lorraine Kawiecki’s nursing home room was decorated with tinsel, a shiny elf and a wreath. The 93-year-old received gifts of a stuffed dinosaur comfort toy, a yellow-and-white handmade blanket and—of course, her favorite snack—animal crackers. Santa’s helpers this year, though, looked a little different. Compassus, a North Andover-based hospice organization, paid Kawiecki and others a visit for the holidays, making sure that even the people with family far away or maybe without any at all still have a merry Christmas. ... "Companionship through hospice programs like Compassus are integral to a senior’s Christmas season," [Joe] Peterson [the area executive of clinical operations at Compassus] said. "Volunteers really bring life to our program and to our patients," he said.

[In the Shelter of a Weeping Beech](#)

By Jesse Wegman, Member of the Editorial Board

New York Times

December 25, 2023

[Editor’s Note from Mark Cohen: The author writes about a large, weeping beech tree that was his mother’s favorite and a ritual he developed to sit in the tree every year on the anniversary of her death and wait for his mother to join him.]

... I have no idea how long we spend there; time is hard to measure when you’re convening with the dead. Sometimes I tell her what happened over the last year—a marriage, a new

job, a new kid, an illness, a news story she would have gasped at. I speak softly, but in a voice I remember. I address her as “Mom,” a word that defined my childhood but that I haven’t said out loud to anyone else for 14 years. And then, after this brief visit to the border between life and death, to the space between two worlds, I head back to work. It is as sacred a ritual as I have in my godless life ... This year, for the first time in 14 years, I forgot. There was no good excuse.

[Connecticut shouldn’t prevent nurse practitioners from operating independently](#)

By Anitha D’Souza

CT Mirror

December 20, 2023

I’m passionate about the role of Nurse Practitioners who are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and concerned that they’re not fully able to do all they’re capable of due to state rules. This affects not just health care workers but also us, the patients. Connecticut has some regulations that hold back NPs, even though they’re totally skilled and capable.

Public Policy News

[State bill would allow doctor-assisted suicide in some cases](#)

Keene (NH) Sentinel

December 25, 2023

A bill pending in the N.H. Legislature would allow doctors to prescribe medication some terminal patients could take to end their lives. Under House Bill 1283, which has bipartisan support, New Hampshire would join 11 other states that permit medical assistance in dying. Lawmakers will consider it in the legislative session that begins early next month.

Post-Acute Care News

[After the chaotic closure of a St. Louis nursing home, will others also shut down?](#)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

December 24, 2023

St. Louis, MO—The north St. Louis nursing home that closed abruptly last weekend, setting off a chaotic relocation of residents and layoffs of workers without warning, had been in decline for several years. ... Other area nursing homes face similar financial pressures and lingering damage from the COVID-19 pandemic. ... “I think we’re going to see a lot of nursing homes close, that’s my prediction—I mean a lot of nursing homes,” [Harvey] Tettlebaum [a lawyer who for decades has represented the Missouri Healthcare Association, a group for long-term health care organizations] said. “I think it’s going to escalate next year.” Among the most vulnerable are providers that primarily serve residents who rely on Medicaid.

Technology / Innovations News

[Ohio hospital, vendor hit with class action suit after data breach](#)

Healthcare Dive

December 22, 2023

A nonprofit hospital in Ohio and a medical transcription services company are facing a class action lawsuit after a data breach at the vendor earlier this year may have exposed personal and health information of nearly nine million people. The suit, filed this week in a district court in Ohio, alleges Salem Community Hospital and Perry Johnson & Associates, or PJ&A, waited six months to inform people who could have been affected by the breach, leaving patients vulnerable to identify theft.

Today's Encouragement

["I don't think there will ever be a time when the principles of Kwanzaa will not be important or timely. It's a great time for reflection and now more than ever our country needs to be reminded of unity." Kellie Carter Jackson](#)

Honoring Kwanzaa Celebrations: December 26, 2023 through January 1, 2024

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