Kansas City Hospice
& PALLIATIVE CARE

# Celebrating the Very Heart of Hospice

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Kansas City, MO - April 20, 2026 - Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care representatives recently joined hospices from across Missouri in Jefferson City at Hospice Day at the Capitol and for the statewide Heart of Hospice Awards, presented by the Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association.

"The work of our team members, volunteers and community supporters is unmatched and it's a pleasure to share their impressive accomplishments with our colleagues across the state," said David Wiley, President & CEO of Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care. "The annual Heart of Hospice Awards is one way we can let them know how much their efforts really matter."

KCH was thrilled to nominate the following people and program for the statewide Heart of Hospice Awards:

- **Amber Stenger** – Administrative Volunteer Nominee
- **Kathy Godbout, CNA** – Employee Nominee
- **Don Paisley** – Patient Care Volunteer Nominee
- **Dave Brown, CPA, Former KCH Board Member** – Lifetime Achievement Nominee
- **Julia Vering, LCSW** – Visionary Nominee
- **KCH Nurse Honor Guard** – Program Nominee

**Julia Vering** and her groundbreaking work in expressive arts therapy in the Kansas City area brought home the statewide award in the Visionary category. Click to see more about her work in a **short video**.

The **KCH Nurse Honor Guard** also won a coveted statewide award, in the Program category. Click to see more about the program in a **short video**.

In addition to the event in Jefferson City, the KCH nominees – and winners! – were also honored locally at a celebration lunch involving the nominees and guests, KCH board members, KCH leadership and more.

**About Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care**
The mission of Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care is to bring expert care, peace of mind, comfort, guidance, and hope to people who are affected by serious illness or by grief. And, our vision is that each person in our community is valued from life through death and each family is supported in their grief. The team of caring and trained professionals is considered the leader and innovator in palliative and end-of-life care in this region. We are also the area's only provider of comprehensive community-based grief support services. More than 300 volunteers assist in many roles, including administrative duties and working with patients and families.

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**For More Information**

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