



Lights of Life Changes Skyline of Wichita

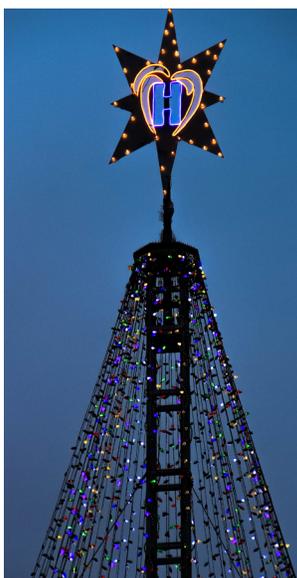
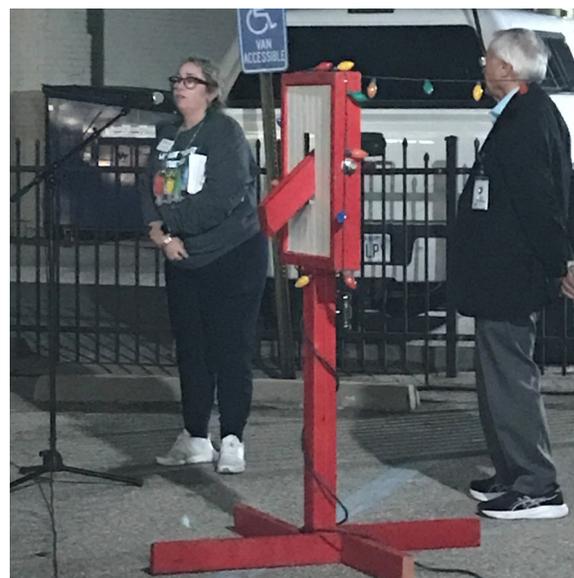
Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice changed the skyline of Wichita for this holiday season. For three years in a row the Lights of Life tree was placed on top of the Harry Hynes downtown headquarters on Market. It stood 80 feet tall and featured over 3,200 bright, colorful, cheery, and festive LED light bulbs.

The tree is part of the Lights of Life celebration where a donation allows a person to “light” a light bulb in memory or honor of their loved one. The name of each dedication was included in our tree lighting ceremony, in the Lights of Life program, on our website, and digital donor wall.

The official tree lighting ceremony took place on Sunday, November 16, 2025. Community members and Harry Hynes supporters joined in the commemoration and witnessed this special holiday tradition.

Donations to the Lights of Life tree enable Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice to continue providing care, education, resources, and support to those facing life-limiting illnesses.

Special thanks to the team of “tree elves”, led by Ed Griswold and Easton Griswold (yes like Clark Griswold), who designed and installed the tree.



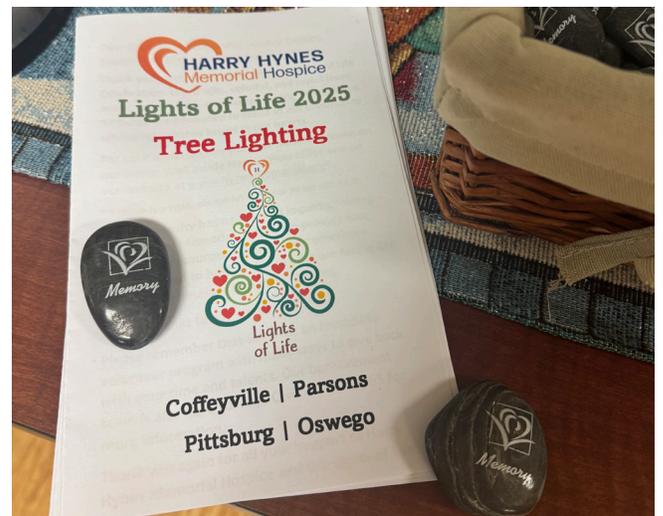
Lights of Life Glow in Southeast Kansas

Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice celebrated the Lights of Life in Southeast Kansas with holiday trees in Coffeyville, Oswego, Parsons, and Pittsburg. Each community had a bright, beautiful, illuminated tree that was lit throughout the holiday season.

This tradition is to celebrate the holidays and the remembrance of family, friends, and members of our community whose memory shines brightly in our hearts. For each donation, a tree light was dedicated in memory or honor of someone special in the location of choice.

Official tree lighting ceremonies took place in each city with community members and Harry Hynes supporters joining in the commemoration and witnessing the moment the tree was lit for this holiday tradition.

The name of each dedication was included in the tree lighting ceremony, in the Lights of Life program, on our website, and digital donor wall. Support for the Lights of Life assists us in our mission enabling people to live with dignity and hope while coping with loss and terminal illness.



For a list of all Lights of Life dedications, visit www.hyneshospice.org/fundraising-events/#lights-of-life.

Thank You to Our 2025 Lights of Life Sponsors



*Forbes -
Hoffman*



Downing & Lahey

• MORTUARIES •
• CREMATORY •

Family Owned & Operated Since 1913

Belford Electric



The Docking Family

Diamond Coach



Griswold Christmas Tree



10th Annual Beryl Silkey Sewing Event

September brought the 10th annual Beryl Silkey Memorial Hospice Gown Sewing Event. Acknowledging this momentous occasion was important to the team at Harry Hynes. This event was started by Beryl Silkey and members of the Wichita Chapter of the American Sewing Guild. Following Beryl's death, the group from ASG continued in her honor, now fabricating nearly 200 beautiful hospital gowns for our patients each year.

Throughout the year, volunteers gather to cut fabric, embroider pockets and match bindings. On a fall Saturday over 70 volunteers from ASG and Harry Hynes come together to sew the pieces into the final product. In attendance at the anniversary event was Patrick, Beryl's husband and his wife.

Karen Sherbak, Director of Volunteers, stated, "Our youngest volunteer was six; the oldest, 90. From Scarlet to Wanda, I wish I could convey the emotions this day brings. When participants tell me stories of their experiences with Harry Hynes, I feel every one of them. The common thread we share is the touching memories of our loved ones. In just six hours, 186 beautiful gowns were made for our patients."

Thank you to the HHMH volunteers who came to help, Linda and Michelle and friends for catering lunch (those adorable bags!) Jim Wyant at Prairie Fire Coffee for donating coffee and tea, 4H Fiber Arts class and teacher Julie Crow for their help and donation of the auditorium, a very special anonymous donor who again made a monetary donation to the event, countless businesses who also donated door prizes and the ladies (and gentlemen!) of the Wichita chapter of the American Sewing Guild for their commitment to Harry Hynes and our mission.



Holiday Treat Day Spreads Cheer

Who doesn't love the warm feeling you get from homemade holiday treats made with love? At Harry Hynes, our annual "Holiday Treat Day" is more than just cookies and sprinkles, it's a heartfelt tradition that brings joy and comfort to those we serve. This year, the conference room at our Market Street location was overflowing with the aromas of peanut butter, chocolate, and gingerbread, as well as the laughter and generosity of our incredible volunteers and staff.

Thanks to the dedication of more than 100 volunteers and Harry Hynes employees, we created over 400 packages of homemade goodness, each one a symbol of why we do what we do. Across three events in Southeast Kansas and Wichita, volunteers baked, frosted, and lovingly packaged their favorite holiday treats.

In keeping with this year's gingerbread theme, hundreds of handmade gingerbread ornaments were donated by Pitsco, who also hosted a packaging event at their Pittsburg facility. In Wichita, our friends at Fidelity Bank joined in the spirit, donating dozens of beautifully decorated cookies crafted by employees, many of whom have a personal connection to the care Harry Hynes provides. These partnerships and acts of generosity remind us what the holidays are truly about: love, community, and the simple joy of giving.

Every treat reminds our patients they are cherished and never alone. With our volunteers and community partners, Harry Hynes Hospice is more than a place of care—it's a compassionate family.



Veterans Day in Southeast Kansas



Every year, we are reminded that the liberties we cherish were not simply given; they were achieved through sacrifice, bravery, and steadfast duty. Veterans bear tales of valor, resilience, and deep devotion to our nation. At Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, we take pride in honoring the dedication and commitment of those who have served in the Armed Forces. We extend our gratitude to Veterans for their service.

Photo on Left: Southeast Kansas staff enjoyed walking in the Parsons Kansas Veterans Day Parade to show our appreciation for Veterans.



Photos Above: The staff of Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice Southeast Kansas organized a Veterans Recognition Ceremony at Carrington Place Assisted Living in Pittsburg and Medicalodge Coffeyville. During the event, Veterans were awarded recognition certificates and enjoyed delicious refreshments. It was a privilege for us that our esteemed Veteran Volunteer, Mike Graham, led the ceremony at Medicalodge Coffeyville and honored all Veterans with recognition certificates.



Donations for our Hospice Center

Rita Newton, retired HHMH employee, is still making sure our agency is supported. She continues to coordinate with her church family to donate meals and much needed supplies for the families at our Hospice Center. We are so thankful for their generosity!

Thank you to all those who have donated in memory or honor of the following:

Donations were made from September 16 to December 16.

This list excludes the Lights of Life dedications. To view the Lights of Life dedications, visit www.hynesmemorial.org/fundraising-events/#lights-of-life

Myrtle J. Anders
Melvin Ast
Sam Battles
Dennis Bearden
Charles E. Bishop
Donna Jo Blankenship
Jeanice M. Boody
Sylvester J. Breit
Wilma Bright
Gaile D. Canoles
Dain C. Capps
Carole Jean Claeys
Aurelia M. Cole
Gloria R. Curran
Cindy Sue Daehling
Karen D. Davidson
Timothy M Davis
Leta Joan Dean
Lester Depperschmidt
Gary L. Dirks
Mitchell Ray Duty
Joseph W. Faber
Mary A. Fagg
Patricia L. Fitzwilliam
Arlen E. Freund
Wayland Friend
Clayton C. Fulton
Kam J. Gaston
Rex Gates
Victoria S. "Vicky" Glennon
Maxine Goering
Richard Goering
Norma J. Graves
Judith Harper
Wade Harris & Bruce Harris
Jerry Harris(Best Dad)
Kay Hartman

Gary L. Henderson
My Dad, Ralph J. Hertel
Ramona D. Hill
Clarence H. Horn
Ray Michael Humphrey
Paul E. Hurley
Earl A. Jennings
Donna Joles
Gerard (Jerry) Joyce
Fred L. Brown, Jr.
George Heyen, Jr.
Rae Ann Kilpatric
Alberta (Bert) Kingsley
Thomas J. Kirk
Nellie Mae Kozjek
Charlene Kuzma
Ronald L. Lamp
Joe Lampe
Bettye Langston
Loretta Leck (My Mom)
John Loehr
Sabra J. Ludlum
Carol S. Ludwig
Steve A. Mallernee
Patricia I. Matlock
Dora Jean McCullough
Bobbie Lynn McKinley
Nancy L. Miller
Graham M. Montgomery
Robert Munden
Jared William Nave
Thomas M. Nuckols
Jerry and Deanna Oliver
Walter & Virginia Orr
Theresa A. Palmer
Charles W. Peltzer
Patti Jo Plett

Rosalie Pudden
Marie T Quinn
Ada M. "Marguerite" Rasmussen
Lynn E. Roberts
Jerome D. Sanders (J.D.)
David J. Schroeder
Mitchell Shanbour
Gary Nash Sharer
Beryl Silkey
Steve Simon
John W. Smith
Jon L. Smith
Nina L Smith
Gary L. Stamm
Evelyn Tanner
Clyde Kermit Taverner
Lola K. Taylor
Randy W. Teel
Charles and Nadine Tholen
Gary Thudium
Robert Thurman
Melvin E. Thurston
Bobby Joe Trammell
Norma Trobaugh
Steve Tucker
Orval L. Utt (LeRoy)
Allene M. Vaughters
Christian A. Vierthaler
Lindsay Wallis
Constance (Connie) L. Weiser
JoVeta Wescott
Melissa M. Wiens
Mike Wiesen
Mary Margaret Wilson
Jerry R. Yankovich
Richard Zarich

Why Your Support Still Matters in 2026

As new charitable-giving rules take effect in 2026, many donors are wondering what these changes mean—and whether supporting nonprofits still makes financial and community sense. The good news is that charitable giving remains both impactful and beneficial, and for many people, the incentives to give are actually improving. For mission-driven organizations like Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, community support is more essential than ever.

A New Universal Deduction for All Donors

For the first time, taxpayers who don't itemize will be able to claim a charitable deduction. Beginning in 2026, individuals may deduct up to \$1,000, and married couples filing jointly may deduct up to \$2,000 simply by donating to a qualified nonprofit organization.



For Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, this expanded donor incentive helps make compassionate end-of-life care accessible by encouraging broader community participation and support.

Harry Hynes Hospice Relies on Community Gifts More Than Ever

While the new tax rules provide benefits for small and mid-level donors, they also introduce limitations on the tax advantages available to high-income individuals and corporations. Nonprofits nationwide expect major-donor giving to soften and hospice organizations will feel this shift in very tangible ways.

At Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, charitable gifts help ensure that:



Every patient receives the same high-quality, compassionate care, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay



Families receive grief support, counseling, and caregiver resources at no cost



Specialized programs including music therapy, spiritual care, and volunteer companionship



Community outreach and education on advance-care planning remains available



Comfort-focused services, which are often not reimbursed by Medicare or private insurance

As some traditional funding streams tighten, the generosity of our community becomes even more critical to sustaining the comfort, dignity, and love that define the Harry Hynes' mission.

The Bottom Line

Even with the charitable-giving changes taking effect in 2026, supporting Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice remains both meaningful and impactful. The new universal deduction encourages broader giving among all taxpayers, while the community's continued generosity ensures that compassionate end-of-life care remains accessible to every family who needs it.

Your gift—no matter the size—directly strengthens the mission of Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice and helps us continue offering comfort, dignity, and love at life's most important moments.

Alcohol Use During Grief

Alcohol use for some individuals increases after the death of a loved one. Several factors illustrate why this increase occurs. Generally, in our American culture statistics show that people will do whatever it takes to avoid pain. The avoidance of pain is one of the primary reasons for alcohol addiction.

For many, alcohol is socially acceptable to use. It is legal and easy to obtain, and initially seems effective in reducing pain. Because it is socially acceptable, and because of the pain due to the loss of a loved one, friends and family may find it harder to ask about a person's drinking.

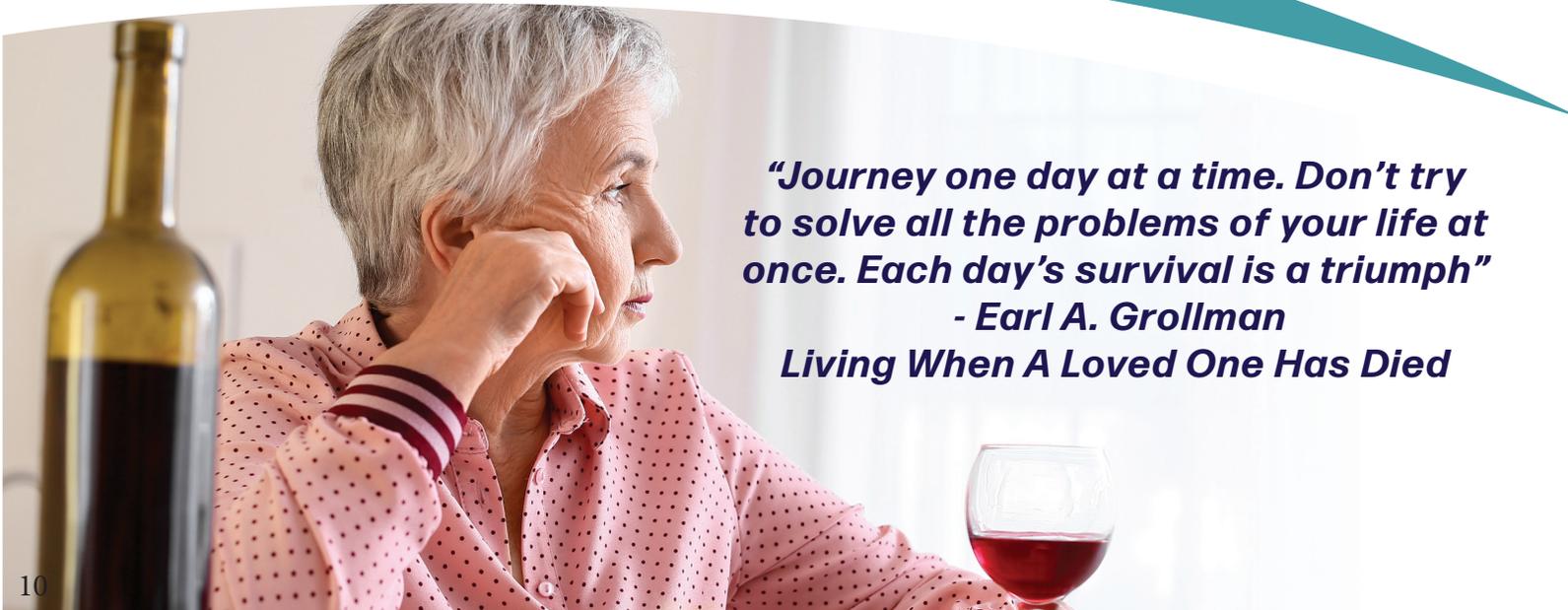
Some individuals may feel as though they deserve to drink excessively. They may feel that they have a big void in their life, and they have a right to comfort themselves.

They may also think that the feelings they are experiencing are difficult to tolerate and they want to get rid of them quickly. For some people, increased alcohol use becomes a way to protect oneself.

What are the effects of alcohol? Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant. It depresses the areas of the brain that are used in complex and rational thinking, and voluntary control of behavior. Over extended periods alcohol can cause cardiac arrest and cirrhosis.

If individuals feel depressed before the use of alcohol, they may initially receive a kind of "self-medication" relief while drinking. This feeling is short-lived, and always leads to greater feelings of depression when alcohol is not used. The cycle of use: feel better – depression – repeat alcohol use, begins. Prolonged use and alcoholism will lead to longer periods of depression making the cycle even harder to break. Alcohol gives a false sense of mastery and control. Increased alcohol use interrupts the mourning process.

Harry Hynes Hospice is available to help with grief and loss counseling. To contact a grief counselor, visit hynesmemorial.org under Care Services / Grief and Loss Support tab, or call (316) 265-9441.



***“Journey one day at a time. Don’t try to solve all the problems of your life at once. Each day’s survival is a triumph”
- Earl A. Grollman
Living When A Loved One Has Died***

*“We bereaved are not alone. We belong to the largest company in all the world – the company of those who have known suffering”
- Helen Keller*

Faith and Grief

How does grief affect faith? Perhaps a more useful question is how does faith affect grief? Losing a loved one in death is not easy. The experience can shake you mentally, physically, and spiritually. During the mourning process, it is not uncommon to rethink your beliefs about God and your relationship with a Higher Power.

Part of this rethinking process includes adjustment to the loss of what has seemed to be an “absolute relationship.” Most people do not plan for those who are close to them to die. Married couples, for example, tend to plan for their future together. Depending on their age, couples normally plan on raising children, buying a house, retiring, etc. In this sense, a close relationship may seem to most of us to be something that will never end. When these relationships do come to an end it can be a struggle to adjust to life without the one who was supposed to be there forever.

Part of this experience can be the concern about whether another absolute relationship,

our relationship with God, might also end. For some people this concern may not be put into words or even fully understood. Yet this feeling causes a real faith crisis for the bereaved person. Fear of abandonment by God may become a serious concern.

Faith does not have to be destroyed through the grief experience. In fact, faith can actually become stronger. People dealing with grief often report they find themselves feeling closer to God as they process their grief. In order for positive spiritual growth to occur, it may be necessary to seek some assistance in processing what has taken place and how your faith has been impacted by the grief experience. A hospice grief counselor or your local faith community can help with processing faith and grief.



