

From Hospice Caring to CaringMatters

1989

Hospice Caring, Inc. was founded.
Served first family through volunteer caregiving program.
Launched first bereavement support group.

1990

Hosted first Tree of Love Ceremony.

1996

Recognized by the City of Gaithersburg with the Outstanding Organization Award.

1998

Held first Good Grief Club (GGC) in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools.

2000

Secured lease for the Cottage from the City of Gaithersburg.
Held first Camp Caring for grieving children, ages 8–12.

2005

Named by Catalogue of Philanthropy for the first time as one of the best small nonprofits in the Washington, DC, area.
Received Community Service Award from Montgomery County Public Schools.

2007

Built conference room in memory of Joshua Freeman.
Designated by Maryland Nonprofits for the first time with the Standards of Excellence Seal of Excellence.

2012

Profiled in joint report from The Center for Nonprofit Advancement and Volunteer Frontier highlighting our effective use of volunteers for maximum impact.

2015

Launched Community Education.

2016

Recognized by the Soroptimist International of Upper Montgomery County, who presented their annual Ruby Award to Penny Gladhill, Founder & Director of Volunteer Helping Hands.

2017

Developed and implemented the Family Nights Program.
Developed and hosted the first Bereaved Caregivers Retreat.
Expanded Camp Caring into Camp Erin, a national network of children's grief camps, doubling the size of camp and broadening the age-range served.

2018

Rebranded as CaringMatters.
Earned GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, highlighting results and impact.
Recognized by the Nonprofit Village with the Making A Difference Award.



2019

Featured in *Washingtonian Magazine*, who named Nancy Richardson, serving as Board Chair, as a Washingtonian of the Year.

Recognized by the Healthcare Initiative Foundation with the Brooks Saltsman Award for our commitment to volunteerism in the health and wellness field.

2020

Transitioned programs and services to virtual platforms due to the pandemic.

2021

Implemented a new, 7-week online workshop series, Parenting While Grieving.

Collaborated with University of Maryland to evaluate the effectiveness of Good Grief Clubs, publish professional journal articles, and present about the findings at national conferences.

Created The Whole You, providing community resource navigation for patients with cancer, in partnership with the Healthcare Initiative Foundation and Adventist HealthCare.

Started virtual caregivers support group.

Launched the Pam Hard Legacy Circle, a planned giving initiative in honor of a cherished volunteer.

2022

Awarded first federal grant, expanding Patient and Caregiver Services.

Selected as one of thirty grief-centered organizations nationally to participate in the Children's Bereavement Changemaker program to build capacity for data collection and program evaluation.

Recognized by the Montgomery County Commission for Women and Montgomery Women, who honored Allison Stearns, CEO of CaringMatters, as a recipient of the Women Making History Award.

2023

Launched JustRides program in partnership with Adventist HealthCare Cancer services to provide free transportation for their patients to medical and other treatment appointments.

2024

Started rebuilding of the Cottage patio, made possible by a Maryland Bond Bill put forward by Sen. Cheryl Kagan, with a generous grant from the Montgomery Village Rotary Club Foundation.

2025

Selected by Eluna to join a new national advisory group focused on enhancing Camp Erin volunteer training and resource development.

Unveiled the completed Cottage patio, constructed by Allentuck Landscaping, and dedicated the space to CaringMatters, CEO, Allison Stearns, and in memory of her husband, Eric Stearns.