



History and Mission

CaringMatters, Inc. was founded in Montgomery County, Maryland, as Hospice Caring in 1989 by a group of community members. Some of founders had recently experienced the death of a loved one and had nowhere to go locally for support and assistance. They wanted to create an organization that would support individuals nearing the end of their lives and those who love them so that no one dies or grieves alone. After exploring end-of-life and bereavement programs in other areas, the founders agreed that Hospice Caring would use a community-building, volunteer-based approach which continues to this day.

In 2017, Hospice Caring's staff and Board decided to take a collective look in the mirror and ask critical questions about the identity, mission and work of the organization. From that effort came the decision to rebrand Hospice Caring with a new name and visual identity.

The name **CaringMatters** was launched in 2018. The new name clarifies the organization's identity, accurately reflects the scope of work and secures a position for future growth.

CaringMatters serves children, adults and families facing life-threatening illness and experiencing the death of a loved one. CaringMatters also increases community awareness and advocacy about end-of-life concerns, advance care planning and grief. CaringMatters serves the culturally and economically diverse residents of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Our small staff and a large volunteer community provide adult and child bereavement and caregiving direct services. All volunteers are screened and have completed at least three full days of specialized training; ongoing training and support are given. Programs are regularly evaluated for their impact on people CaringMatters serves.

From the beginning, all services have been delivered free of charge; none are covered by Medicare or other public or private insurance. A mix of individual and business donors, foundations and government supports CaringMatters. Volunteers also donate administrative and fund-raising support time.

CaringMatters has earned the Maryland Nonprofits Seal of Excellence and has been named as one of the best small nonprofit organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. It has been selected for a listing in the Catalogue of Philanthropy and received a platinum-level designation from GuideStar for its transparency.

Our Mission

CaringMatters supports people of all ages experiencing serious illness, caregiving, loss, or grief through compassionate services - so no one faces their journey alone.

Our Vision

CaringMatters envisions a community that accepts death as part of life; where the processes of caregiving, dying and grieving are embraced; where everyone has access to services and where no one dies or grieves alone.

Core Values

- Compassionate, respectful presence
- High quality services that honor personal choices
- Culturally competent, accessible support
- Impactful programs that make a positive difference
- Dedicated volunteers and partners whose support is essential
- Deep engagement as an integral part of our community
- Responsible and transparent resource management