

*What is a **My Hospice** Ambassador?*

A My Hospice Ambassador is someone who shows unwavering **passion, dedication, commitment to advocacy** and **leadership** in the hospice and palliative care community.

- **Passion**
 - Someone who has worked in and been a part of the hospice and palliative profession for a sufficient amount of time. During their tenure, this person has shown an outstanding dedication to their work and the patients they serve. This individual understands and can articulate the true value of hospice.

- **Dedication**
 - Someone interested in expanding their commitment to the broader hospice and palliative care community by being a representative and a voice for person-centered care in their state through advocacy and federal policy outreach.

- **Leadership**
 - Someone who exhibits leadership on their team and in their community and is willing to grow their position and develop their professional capabilities. This individual is ready to create and develop an on-going relationship with members of Congress and other community leaders. Someone who can step up and lead on advocacy efforts with the guidance and support of the NHPCO team- including organizing and hosting a local congressional meeting and attending annual fly-in events with other My Hospice Ambassadors.

Think you have what it takes, or know someone who does? Please nominate them to serve as a My Hospice Ambassador!

Nominations are due by Monday, June 17th at 5:00 p.m. ET*

What does it mean to be an Ambassador?



My Hospice Ambassadors are NHPCO's go-to advocates for connecting with federal lawmakers. They not only care about issues affecting hospice and palliative care but are willing to work with NHPCO and members of their community to influence policymakers and impact change.



Are you interested in joining the next level? Contact the Hospice Action Network team at info@nhpcohan.org to learn how.

We Want You to Host a My Hospice Congressional Roundtable!

To expand and maximize the reach of the *My Hospice* campaign, NHPCO has been working to identify priority Members of Congress in the 116th Congress to participate in a series of *My Hospice* branded roundtable events at hospice programs across the country.

We need your help to host these events! NHPCO will help make the process as easy for you as possible. As an example, take a look at the support provided during an event with Congressman Roger Marshall, who represents the Kansas second congressional district in an outline below.

Kansas My Hospice Event

After identifying Congressman Marshall as a supporter of hospice and palliative care, NHPCO worked with Kansas *My Hospice* Ambassador Sandy Kuhlman to:

- Customize an invitation to the Congressman and followed-up with his staff to coordinate event location and timing.
- Confirm availability and run-of-show with hospice provider host as well as to identify and invite other NHPCO stakeholder participants.
- Coordinate with host and congressional office to determine if the media or general public should be invited and facilitate outreach.
- Set up call with congressional staff, hospice host, and NHPCO to coordinate event plan.
- Support host with talking points, background materials and best practices.
- Arrange materials including banners, signs, handouts or other items needed to support the event.
- Work with attendees and provide training for capturing photos or video from the event to share with local media, on social media and with the NHPCO community.
- Develop an advisory and press release to promote the event to local media.
- Follow-up with the host and Congressional office following the event and package event metrics.



The successful event included over a dozen area hospice professionals who spent an uninterrupted hour with Congressman Marshall and were able to raise priority policy issues, including:

- Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA)
- Rural Access to Hospice Act
- CMS FY 2020 Hospice Wage Index Proposed Rule
- Hospice telehealth innovation
- Opioid access and challenges

"I really appreciated the information, outline, materials and all that was shared and the expertise was invaluable! The time with Congressman Marshall went well and I would love to do this again."

- Sandy Kuhlman

The goal of the My Hospice Roundtable program is to make the logistical planning and running of the event as easy as possible for host providers and allow them meaningfully to engage with lawmakers to advance the goals for the My Hospice campaign while enlisting new congressional champions and cultivating grassroots advocates.

Are you ready to get involved?

Contact Sydney Shepherd at sshepherd@nhpco.org to get started!

SALINA JOURNAL

Hospice providers discuss legislative priorities

"Hospice providers from central and western Kansas discussed their services and legislative priorities Friday with Rep. Roger Marshall, (R-Great Bend) during a roundtable discussion in Salina."

HospiceActionNetwork @HospiceAction · May 6
Thanks @RepMarshall for attending a #MyHospice roundtable event on Friday with the Hospice Services of Northwest Kansas! We hope the discussion helped reinforce the importance of the Medicare Hospice Benefit.

