

*25th Anniversary  
Celebration*



*June 7th, 2003*

# Horizon Hospice

Chicago's first hospice, Horizon is a not-for-profit, community-based organization whose goal is to provide comfort for the dying and to preserve dignity at the end of life.

Led by Ada Addington, a small group of dedicated volunteers established Horizon Hospice in 1978. Our volunteer corps has since grown to 100, and we now employ a staff of more than 60 professionals.

Every year, Horizon provides medical, emotional, practical and spiritual support to hundreds of terminally ill patients and their families throughout the Chicago area. Hospice care is delivered primarily in the home by an interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, chaplains, social workers, home health aides, bereavement counselors and volunteers. A full-service program, Horizon is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and certified by Medicare and Medicaid.

Arrangements with community hospitals and nursing homes enable Horizon to offer in-patient care when patients cannot be managed at home. Each year, area hospitals, nursing schools, medical schools and residency programs send students to Horizon for exemplary clinical education in end-of-life care.

Horizon welcomes new volunteers, and we have some special 25th anniversary giving opportunities. If you'd like to learn more, please visit us on the Web at [www.horizonhospice.org](http://www.horizonhospice.org) or call us at 312.733.2233.



*Ada F. Addington*  
**Founder**

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A native of New York City, Ada Addington was educated at Vassar College and the University of Florence in Italy. Upon marrying Dr. Whitney Addington, she moved to Chicago where the couple raised their family. As a volunteer at Cook County Hospital during the late 1960s and early 1970s, Ada cared for critically ill patients in the emergency room and the burn unit. She loved being there, and her interest in patient care grew. Whitney was then Chief of Pulmonary Medicine at County, where the Addingtons met an impressive young resident named Michael Preodor.

In 1976, Ada read a *New York Times* article about the hospice philosophy and the work of England's Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of St. Christopher's Hospice near London. Inspired by the idea of offering patients a pain-free, peaceful, dignified death, Ada invited three friends to join her in developing a hospice program: lawyer Sharon Bunyan King, priest Rev. J. Wilson Reed, and pediatrician Frank Duda, MD. Ada then recruited a group of talented associates for the board, many of whom remain active in the organization. In 1978, Horizon officially incorporated, hired a medical director — Dr. Michael Preodor — and accepted its first patient.

As Horizon's first volunteer, Ada traveled to patients' bedsides, modeling the hands-on, patient-centered approach that became the hallmark of Horizon's care. In an era of tremendous fear and ignorance about AIDS, some were shocked when Ada offered to make a home visit to Horizon's first AIDS patient. When asked, "What did you do?" Ada calmly replied, "Well, I sat on his bed, and we played cards." The story reflects the essence of Hospice — and the essence of Ada.



*Michael E. Preodor, MD, FACP  
President*

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Dr. Michael E. Preodor, president of Horizon Hospice, served as medical director from 1978 until 1998 when he assumed the presidency. Mike is also Section Chief of General

Internal Medicine at St. Joseph Hospital and a practitioner with Sage Medical Group. He earned his medical degree from Emory University, Atlanta, and entered a 3-year residency in Internal Medicine at Chicago's Cook County Hospital in 1973. Mike completed a fellowship in Ambulatory Care at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and a training program at the Palliative Care Unit, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, in 1979. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine and in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He holds an assistant professorship at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, as well.

Mike seizes every opportunity to enlighten his colleagues about the importance of releasing patients from physical pain so they can spend their final days finding meaning and peace. He is a founding member of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and a fellow of both the Institute of Medicine, Chicago, and the American College of Physicians. A master facilitator in the AMA-developed Education for Physicians on End-of-Life Care program, he also provides palliative care consultation services at St. Joseph and Mount Sinai hospitals.

Early on, as the "new kid" at a small Internal Medicine practice, Mike was required to visit nursing home patients. He met Mrs. J., terminally ill and in her 90s. In an endless cycle, she was sent to the hospital whenever she had a fever, but never got well. Mike boldly made the unprecedented move of offering the family options. He told Mrs. J's son they could choose NOT to admit her to the hospital — but provide her with comfort care in the home. The weary son wept with gratitude. Mrs. J. died a peaceful, dignified death among loved ones...and our favorite hospice crusader set out to fulfill his life's purpose.

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*\*25th Anniversary Benefit Committee—This celebration was made possible by the dedicated efforts of these planning committee members.*

Horizon  
Hospice

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[www.horizonhospice.org](http://www.horizonhospice.org)