

THE PROJECT ON DEATH IN AMERICA'S EXIT STRATEGY TO ADVANCE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING

ORIGINALLY DESIGNED as a three-year \$15 million funding program, PDIA was ultimately renewed for a total of nine years of grantmaking. When PDIA closed on December 31, 2003, it had distributed \$45 million to organizations and individuals across the United States to improve care for dying patients and their families.

During PDIA's last year of funding, its board and staff reviewed the program's original funding strategies, goals, and individual initiatives. PDIA hosted roundtable discussions and individual meetings, actively engaging palliative care leaders including former board members, faculty scholars, nursing and social work leaders, grantees, organizations, associations, experts in the field, and other funders to help frame PDIA's exit strategy.

The overwhelming consensus was that PDIA's exit strategy should be consistent with the project's long standing focus on professional development for healthcare professionals in palliative care.

This includes the need to strengthen existing professional associations' capacity to affect health policy, financing, education, research, and clinical training in palliative care. It also recognizes the importance of encouraging other funders to include palliative care on their funding agendas.

With this consensus, PDIA has chosen to make its final grant awards to enhance the organizational capacity and sustainability of the following organizations: the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, the Social Work Summit, Harvard Medical School's Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice, and Grantmakers Concerned with Care at the End of Life.

The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Glenview, IL

\$1,200,000

The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) is the leading physician-based professional organization dedicated to advancing practice, research, and education in hospice and palliative medicine. AAHPM members come from many medical specialties and are committed to improving hospice and palliative care for patients with life-limiting illness and their families.

This grant will support AAHPM's infrastructure, and strengthen its ability to serve the needs of palliative care professionals across disciplines and borders. The funds will enable AAHPM to develop an academic "college" to continue the legacy and leadership of the PDIA Faculty Scholars; strengthen AAHPM's capacity to support and nurture academic leaders and scientists who will establish palliative care as a well-recognized field in medicine, nursing, and social work; raise the level of interaction and influence with other organizations; and expand the role of the AAHPM as a leader in interdisciplinary professional education in palliative care. The grant will also enable AAHPM to assume responsibility for recruiting and coordinating a consortium of foundations to support palliative care fellowship training programs.

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

Pittsburgh, PA

\$200,000

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), a 5,500 member organization for licensed nurses and certified nursing assistants, is committed to promoting excellence in end-of-life-nursing care. HPNA will use PDIA's grant to advance professional nursing education by building on the work of the Johns Hopkins Nursing Leadership Academy on End-of-Life Care, and the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC.)

HPNA has recognized that providing palliative and end-of-life care for people in nursing homes and long-term care settings receives little attention. HPNA will use the funding to initiate ELNEC courses with a goal of recruiting 450 participants—50 percent from the long term care setting. Upon course completion, participants will become members of a newly established "Community of Practice" to meet their ongoing needs for support and education.

Social Work Summit on Palliative and End-of-Life Care

New York, NY

\$200,000

In March 2002, leaders from national social work organizations, schools of social work, hospices, hospitals, government agencies, and end-of-life advocacy groups gathered for a summit meeting to design a social work agenda to improve care for the dying and their families. The group represented more than 30 organizations and over 160,000 practicing social workers.

PDIA's grant will further this agenda for organized professional leadership, standards of practice, and increased preparation at all levels of social work education. The goal is to help social work as a field be better prepared to build professional consensus, create interdisciplinary partnerships, further a research agenda, collaborate on program initiatives, and build the educational structures needed to train future generations of social workers in palliative and end-of-life care.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

Alexandria, VA

\$200,000

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) is the oldest and largest nonprofit membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the United States. NHPCO is committed to improving end-of-life care and expanding access to hospice care with the goal of profoundly enhancing quality of life for people dying in America.

This grant will help NHPCO strengthen its organizational infrastructure and expand its reach into diverse communities. The grant will support NHPCO's efforts to encourage appropriate end-of-life care further upstream within the healthcare system. It will also enable NHPCO to build relationships with long term care providers, extend the work of the Veteran's Administration Hospice and Palliative Care Initiative, and establish an office of diversity to expand palliative care access and outreach to communities of color.

Harvard Medical School's Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice

Boston, MA

\$100,000

Harvard Medical School's Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice (PCEP) is an international faculty development program. PCEP offers intensive learning experiences for physician and nurse-educators who wish to become expert in the clinical practice and teaching of comprehensive, interdisciplinary palliative care, and to gain expertise in leading and managing improved palliative care education and practice at their own institutions. Faculty who complete the training program are prepared to teach other faculty, practitioners, and trainees in medical and nursing about end-of-life care, create innovative educational programs, and to lead clinical service reform, including building new palliative care programs.

PDIA's grant will support scholarships for healthcare professionals from minority or underserved communities to attend PCEP's faculty development program. These scholarships will allow PCEP to continue to recruit a diverse population of health professional educators from sites across the country, and help assure that underserved and minority communities have access to their expertise.

The American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Silver Spring, MD

\$99,984

Since its inception in 1996, the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (ABHPM) has worked to bring recognition to the emerging field of palliative medicine. ABHPM develops standards for training and practice in palliative medicine and establishes the requirements for certification and recertification. ABHPM is an independent, non-profit organization whose certificate is recognized as signifying a high level of physician competence in the discipline of palliative medicine. Members of the ABHPM Board and Examination Committee are nationally recognized leaders in clinical practice, academic medicine, medical education, and research in the field of palliative medicine.

PDIA's grant will enable ABHPM to implement standards for fellowship training programs in palliative care and to begin the lengthy subspecialty application process for palliative medicine. ABHPM's long-term goal is recognition of palliative medicine as an official subspecialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties and the American Osteopathic Association. ABHPM is collaborating closely with the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine to jointly lead the campaign for recognition of the specialty. Many other individuals and groups are also working toward this goal.

Grantmakers Concerned with Care at the End of Life

New York, NY

PDIA will support the activities of Grantmakers Concerned with Care at the End of Life (GCCEL) through 2004. GCCEL is based at the Open Society Institute and serves as a resource center for other funders who need information or advice about funding in the field. GCCEL works within the foundation community to encourage a wide range of funders—community foundations, family foundations, individuals, and private foundations—to support palliative and end-of-life care locally and nationally.



Family remembering their father and grandfather, outside of Window Rock, AZ.