

TEXARKANA, Texas — Hospice of Texarkana Inc. officials are hoping for a boost from the community because of fundraiser cancellations amid the pandemic. One of the annual events Hospice had to forgo in 2020 was its Christmas fundraiser, which Executive Director Cindy Marsh said brings in about \$50,000 every year.

THE Bottom Line is Donations are needed.

Hospice is in its 35th year of providing service to families living with advanced illnesses.

They opened the region's only Hospice Care Center in 2016, which has been critical for patients and families who are concerned about entering an acute care setting or a long-term care facility because of COVID.

"Hospice care alleviates the five types of pain," Marsh said. "That includes physical, spiritual, social, emotional and financial."

As the only nonprofit hospice in a 100-mile radius of Texarkana in Texas or Arkansas, they have provided \$260,000 in unfunded care in 2020, according to its management. This end-of-life support is provided to any person needing care, with or without the availability of insurance benefits.

Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurances.

"If anyone would like to call and talk with us directly about their interest in our organization and possibly naming some part of the in-patient care center, we would love to have that conversation with them," Marsh said.

(Online donations can be made at hospiceoftexarkana.org/online-giving or a check can be sent to Hospice of Texarkana, Inc., 2407 Galleria Oaks Drive, Texarkana TX 75503. For more information, contact 903-794-4263.)