

A Unique Perspective on Hospice Care



In 2006, as he sat on the tarmac in Atlanta preparing himself for takeoff, Dr. Trey Bishara received a frantic call from his father. Doctors at a hospital in Charleston had informed Trey's mother, who was suffering from terminal recurrent breast cancer, that there was nothing more they could do for her. She was being discharged -- on a Saturday -- and Trey's father reached out to his son for help.

"He had no idea where to take my mother," Trey recalled.

Trey, who knew the McLeod Hospice House existed, but not much more, acted fast. "I immediately called Dr. Carolyn Reynolds at the Hospice House from the plane. She took the ball from there."

Dr. Reynolds quickly made arrangements to welcome Mrs. Nabila Bishara into the Hospice House and ensured that she received the most comfortable and compassionate care possible.

"I'll never forget what she did for us," Trey said of Dr. Reynolds. "Mother was very happy there. It was through this experience that I learned how amazing the Hospice House is."

With this newfound appreciation, Trey and his wife Dr. Lisa Bishara became consistent, generous supporters of McLeod Hospice. In 2012, the couple's gift in support of the Hospice House Addition was recognized by the naming of a patient room in memory of Trey's mother.

A year later, they would once again find themselves seeking the unique care and comfort provided by the Hospice House staff when Lisa's mother became a patient.

Lisa praised all of the services provided by the Hospice House, from the food provided for the families, to the chaplaincy which, according to Lisa, "brought peace" to her mother before she passed.

Having experienced the House from three different angles -- patient family, donor and, since 2010, McLeod Foundation Board member -- Trey Bishara has a unique perspective on the value of this resource for our region.

"As a family member, I was just concerned with the care of my mother and, later on, Lisa's mother," explained Trey. "Both were very happy here, so I was impressed. As a donor and board member, I now get to see how focused the leadership of the Hospice House is on providing great care. They work with outstanding folks to ensure that the Hospice House is everything this community needs it to be."

A passion of the Bisharas, the Hospice House is by no means the sole reason for their generosity toward the McLeod Foundation.

"Once we became Hospice House supporters and got close with the McLeod Foundation, we gained an appreciation for all they do," explained Trey, who excitedly listed the Foundation's work with McLeod Children's Hospital and the McLeod Cancer Clinic as other examples.

The Bisharas are extremely proud to be a part of the Foundation; it is apparent when they talk about the many accomplishments made possible by a generous community, and through Trey's service on the Board -- of which he is currently Vice Chair. Their pride is perhaps made most abundantly clear, however, through their membership in the Dr. F. H. McLeod Legacy Society.

"We wanted to establish a legacy of giving to an organization we believe in," the Bisharas explained. "And we chose a bequest because it was a simple, straightforward way to do that."

Trey lives by a quote from the South African Bishop Desmond Tutu that says: "*Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.*" He and his wife's bequest to the McLeod Foundation, as he explains, is his way of doing his "little bit of good" here in Florence.