

A black and white dog, possibly a pit bull mix, is lying on its belly on a patch of grass and dirt. The dog's tongue is hanging out, and it is looking directly at the camera. In the background, there is a light blue wooden fence and a sky with soft, orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

Hearts *for Hospice*

SPRING 2026

Games, Music,
& Giving Back

*Charity Casino Night
moves to Tampa*

Yogi's Story

From hospice to home



A Night of Games, Music, & Giving Back



The sound of laughter, music, and the shuffle of cards will fill the room as guests gather for Gulfside Hospice's Charity Casino Night, one of Gulfside's most anticipated evenings of the year.

This year's event brings the excitement to Tampa for the first time, welcoming supporters to the Shanna & Bryan Glazer JCC on Friday, April 24, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

For one lively evening, the venue will transform into a vibrant casino floor where guests can try their luck at Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Poker, and Texas Hold 'em, all while enjoying great food, music, and the company of friends who share a passion for giving back.

Beyond the games and celebration, the evening carries a deeper purpose.

Every ticket and sponsorship supports Gulfside Hospice's Charity Hospice Care program, which helps ensure that patients in our community receive compassionate care regardless of their ability to pay.

"Casino Night is always such a fun event because people come together to enjoy the night while supporting something that truly matters," said Marissa Hartley, Fundraising & Event Planning Manager at Gulfside Hospice. "This year we're especially excited to bring the event to Tampa and introduce Gulfside to even more members of our community."

Throughout the evening, guests will enjoy favorite features that have become Casino Night

traditions, including Restaurant Roulette, the popular Wine Pull, a human slot machine, dancing, and a festive photo booth.

Tickets are \$125 per person, and sponsorship opportunities begin at \$350, which include tickets to the event.

Whether guests arrive ready to test their luck at the tables or simply enjoy an evening out with friends, Charity Casino Night promises a memorable night of entertainment, all in support of compassionate hospice care for families across our community.



**Scan for more
information
on tickets and
sponsorships!**



Photo

The Power of Showing Up Every Month

Think about the small things that show up in your life every month.

Your morning coffee.

A streaming service you enjoy.

A gym membership that helps you stay healthy.

Most of them cost around ten dollars.

They may seem small, but over time those little things become part of your routine, part of what supports your daily life.

The same idea can help support families in our community. Every day across Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas counties, Gulfside Hospice teams walk into homes where families are facing some of life's most difficult moments.

A nurse helping manage pain so someone can rest comfortably.

A social worker guiding families through emotional decisions.

A chaplain offering quiet support during a difficult time.

These moments of care happen every single day.

Today, Gulfside cares for more than 775 hospice patients daily, while also providing hundreds of palliative care visits each month as services expand across our growing Tampa Bay community.



While Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance cover most hospice services, they don't cover everything. Community support helps ensure that **no patient is turned away from the hospice care they need because of an inability to pay.**

That's where something simple can make a powerful difference. Through Gulfside's **Giving Every Month (GEM) program**, donors provide steady support that helps ensure compassionate care is always there when families need it most.

Sometimes, helping someone in your community begins with something as simple as \$10 a month.

Small monthly gifts add up to something extraordinary. Over time, those consistent acts of generosity help bring comfort, dignity, and support to families throughout our community.



From Hospice to Home: Yogi's Story

When Yogi first came into Gulfside Hospice's **Pet Peace of Mind®** program, his future was uncertain.

His owner, Shanna, had recently learned she was facing a terminal illness and didn't have anyone available to care for him long-term.

Yogi had already experienced a difficult journey. Shanna had rescued him through an animal organization in St. Croix that she had supported for years. Many of the animals there had experienced abuse, and when Yogi first arrived in her home, he was extremely skittish around people.

Around that same time, a couple in the Pasco County community saw Yogi's photo on a flyer connected to Gulfside's Pet Peace of Mind® program. The flyer explained that Shanna was a hospice patient who didn't have anyone available to care for her dog.

The couple had recently lost their beloved dog Molly and had just begun thinking about adopting again when they saw Yogi's picture, it didn't take long for them to arrange to meet him at Shanna's home.

Before the meeting began, Shanna asked them to sit quietly on the couch and ignore Yogi so he could approach them on his own terms. For a dog who was known to hide from strangers, even that felt unlikely.

But something unexpected happened.

Within ten minutes, Yogi slowly walked up and leaned into one of his visitors.

Then he did something, his owner said, that still makes them smile, "He turned around and presented his rump so I could pet him." It was a small moment, but it meant everything.

Shanna explained that Yogi had never allowed anyone to touch him so quickly before. What often took days or even weeks had happened in just minutes.

By the end of the visit, she believed they were the right family for him.

Yogi's story is only one of the many examples of why programs like Pet Peace of Mind matter. For many hospice patients, pets are not just companions. They are family.

The decision to let him go was not easy. Yogi had only recently come into her life, and she cared deeply for him. The couple offered to let him stay longer, but Shanna gently insisted that it would be better for him to begin adjusting to his new home sooner rather than later.

A few days later, Yogi went home with his new family.

After bringing him home, they sent Shanna photos and videos of him running and playing in their backyard. She said seeing those updates made her feel good and brought her peace knowing that Yogi was happy and that he would be okay without her.

They were deeply saddened to learn that Shanna passed away only a few weeks later.

Today, Yogi is a completely different dog.

The once-shy pup who tried to hide from people now spends his days chasing squirrels in the backyard, playing with his favorite toy, a mini rubber tire, and cuddling on the couch at night. He has even formed an unlikely friendship with the family's cats, Pepper and Mango, creating what they jokingly call "our zoo."

His story is only one of the many examples of why programs like Pet Peace of Mind® matter. For many hospice patients, pets are not just companions. They are family.

Pet Peace of Mind® helps provide food, supplies, veterinary care, and support so patients can keep their pets with them as long as possible. And when the time comes, the program helps ensure those beloved animals can find safe and loving homes.

Stories like Yogi's show how compassion can continue even after hospice care ends. They also remind us just how powerful the bond between people and their pets can be.



*At left:
Yogi, relaxing
at home.*

Celebrate Pets, Support Patients

The connection between people and their pets is something worth celebrating.

That's why Gulfside Hospice invites the community each year to participate in the Pet Pageant, a fun virtual event that helps raise funds for the Pet Peace of Mind® program.

"Who doesn't love showing off their pets?" Yogi's owner shared. "My phone is filled with photos and videos of mine."

Every entry and every vote helps provide support for hospice patients and their pets, including:

- 🐾 Pet food and supplies
- 🐾 Veterinary care and medications
- 🐾 Transportation to vet appointments
- 🐾 Help finding loving homes when needed

Because pets aren't just like family. They are family.

**Enter your pet. Vote for your favorites.
Share the joy.**

Every photo, every vote, and every share helps ensure hospice patients don't have to worry about the animals they love.

Scan the QR code to participate in the Pet Pageant and support Pet Peace of Mind.



In Loving Memory

Recognizing gifts received between January 1 and March 26, 2026

Walls of Caring

Samuel J. Bake
Patty Mulchi

Butterfly Memorial Garden

Edward Czysz
Carol M. Morris

Memorial Donations

Patricia A. Anderson
Paul V. Andrews
James Balderson
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Edmund Zampier
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A NEW WINNER TAKES THE ROAD

For more than a decade, one team held the title.

This year, that changed.

On Saturday, February 7, riders gathered once again for Gulfside Hospice's annual Hittin' the Road for Hospice motorcycle poker run; a day filled with camaraderie, remembrance, and a shared commitment to supporting hospice patients and families in our community.

More than 100 riders kicked off the morning at the Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppe in New Port Richey, engines revving as they prepared to hit the road. The route carried them through several stops before ending the day at the Zephyrhills Moose Lodge.

But this year's ride brought something new.

After years of the Golden Eagles holding the top fundraising title, the Zephyrhills Moose Lodge claimed the Wings 'N Wheels trophy for the very first time.

The win was the result of a full community effort.

Through their Moose Riders group and fundraising initiatives like Bingo Nights, the Lodge raised \$3,750 in support of the event, edging out both the Golden Eagles and American Legion Riders in a close and spirited competition.

"It's the excitement of seeing all the riders come in and the friendly competition through fundraising — it's just an awesome day," said Chuck Plourde, administrator of the Zephyrhills Moose Lodge 2276.

A longtime supporter of Hittin' the Road for Hospice, the Zephyrhills Moose Lodge has played a major role in the event's success since its early years. This year's win marked a meaningful milestone for the group, who will proudly hold the trophy for the year ahead.

"Hospice has touched my heart," Plourde said, "just like it has touched so many others. Being able to give

back in a way that helps lessen the burden for families means a lot to our members."

Beyond the friendly competition, the day remained rooted in its purpose.

Riders spent the day connecting with one another, honoring loved ones, and supporting a cause that touches so many families across our community.

By the end of the event, more than \$24,000 was raised to support compassionate hospice care across Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas counties. Since 2013, the event has raised more than \$253,000 in support of Gulfside Hospice.



"Hittin' the Road is always a special day because it brings people together for something bigger than the ride itself," said Marissa Hartley, Fundraising and Event Planning Manager at Gulfside Hospice. "Every rider who participates helps ensure families in our community receive the care and support they need during difficult moments."

From longtime riders to first-time participants, the event continues to grow...proving that even a friendly competition on the road can help bring comfort, care, and connection to families when they need it most.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Games, Music, & Giving Back *p. 2*
- Yogi's Story *p. 4*
- In Loving Memory *p. 6*
- A New Winner Takes the Road *p. 7*