

Medicare, “Unraveling the Golden Chain”

Medicare and You, 2024”, page 44, HOME HEALTH SERVICES, specifically states that an individual may receive Home Health Services under Part A and/or Part B.

Medicare should cover 28-35 hours of home health aide services per week. And although it’s the law, we found that none of our clients can obtain the types, amounts, or duration of services that they are eligible to receive!

The problem lies in Medicare’s billing practices that discourage Home Health Care Agencies (HHA’s) from providing these services. In 2000 It changed from a Prospective Payment System to a payment system in which HHA’s receive a bundled payment when they provide the minimum number of HH visits. Each year the Secretary adjust and updates the HHA payment rates and policies through administrative rule making, not by changing the law. Never has the eligibility requirement changed for receiving an aid, only the payment structure.



Medicare audits of Home Health Care Agencies are another roadblock. Agencies are frequently penalized for providing services that were deemed not ‘reasonable and necessary.’

The Center for Medicare Advocacy (CMA) recently filed a class action lawsuit against the Secretary of Health and Human Services, but it was dismissed and now under appeal. InSpirit maintains regular contact with CMA lawyers.

InSpirit also received a Marin County Grant to investigate the roadblocks, educate our recipients and other Marin County Agencies. We hired Diana Lopez, who works for California’s Health Insurance Counseling (HICAP) to help our clients navigate the system, and we presented our work to Congressman Jared Huffman who was impressed by our research and promised to investigate it on the Federal level.

Please join us in our Advocacy and write to your Representatives!

Meet Noe Rodriguez

Noe Rodriguez has been a beloved member of the West Marin community for many years. When he was injured in a serious motorcycle accident in May of this year his community rallied to support him and his family, raising money for his extensive physical therapy needs and to allow his family to stay close and visit him daily. It was during this time that InSpirit heard about Noe’s serious condition and stepped in to include Noe as our newest grant recipient.



In September, Noe was finally able to transition out of his extensive stay in the rehabilitation hospital. With the help of his friends and family, Noe moved into an apartment in Berkeley with his sister and mother. The transition has had its ups and downs, but support from organizations such as Norcal Spinal Cord Injury Foundation and Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP) have proven to be invaluable.

After dealing with some significant pain issues after his transition home, Noe was recently diagnosed with Subacute Post-traumatic Ascending Myelopathy, a rare and very serious complication of spinal cord injury. He has very good specialists working on his team and we are hopeful that they will be able to offer new treatment. His family is with him and are infinitely grateful for the support and prayers offered from his community. If you would like to make a donation on behalf of Noe please visit inspiritmarin.org/donate and include “Noe” in the dedication.

Our “Light Up The Night” benefit was a big hit!

It was all hustle and bustle at 3 pm on Sept 9th as the InSpirit Board and friends, led by Leslie Franklyn, Hope Sofrencko, Marty Meade and Maya Friedman, transformed Sleepy Hollow’s Community Center. Two hours later flowers were on the tables, auction items were well displayed, food and drinks were in place, and musicians were tuning up as the first of 90 guests arrived for our second fall fundraiser!

It was wonderful to have a spot with good wheelchair access for some of our clients to be able to join us, and for many of the donors to meet those clients for the first time. Beside board member Brian Jacobson, we welcomed Quincy Seitz, Vanessa Osman, Betsy Ayers, Alan Meneses and their families.

Aneice’s daughter Deva movingly introduced us to Deborah Fitzpatrick, the recipient of The Aneice Taylor Community Service Award, recognizing individuals who make an important difference in the

lives of our clients. Deborah has been a dedicated supporter of InSpirit “in each and every one of the 36 years” since Aneice founded it. Deva reminded us that Aneice loved the image, meaning and action of “helping hands.” Deborah surely has always been a helping hand to InSpirit. It was a pleasure to see her presented with Marty Meade’s glass rendition of one of Aneice’s watercolors. Her acceptance speech brought tears to some of our eyes, as her family joined in the audience’s applause.

Auctioneer Andrew Giacomini wasted no time reminding us what InSpirit’s work accomplishes, and why we should bid generously. The 2021 recipient of our Community Service Award for his unstinting help to our client Abelina, his description of how Abelina and others are treated when they don’t have advocates definitely put people in the giving spirit!

Kevin Meade and Highway One ended the evening with song. Some folks tore themselves away from the food and conviviality to make moves on the dance floor, while others enjoyed Kevin’s original lyrics happily seated, or as they waltzed out with their auction items.

We raised \$51,344 so InSpirit can continue to offer our clients helping hands!



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Assisting the unique needs
of people affected by
quadriplegia since 1987

- Grants for Attendant Care
- Peer Support
- Urgent Needs
- Legislative Advocacy

Follow us for up to date news and info:

 inspirit_marin and  inspiritmarin

In Spirit Executive Director Update:

In my 40 years in the nonprofit sector I've seen growth come in different ways. The usual metric is to look at an increase in income, but that might mean there's a good fundraiser on board but the organization might have stagnated. Our growth over this last year saw us become a very good team.

Amy Valens handles the Annual Plant Sale; Brian Jacobson revamped our website, lays out the newsletter and provides deep insight to the life of someone with quadriplegia. That helps inform our weekly Big 4 meetings which I started, with him, long-time board member Marty Meade, Maya Friedman who's our

executive Administrator, and myself. Many times with no agenda we still meet for 1.5 hours because the issue we cover has so many moving parts, all managed very well by Maya. We cover such topics as procuring equipment, helping a client in a difficult time, or reviewing how to language an approach to a big funder.

Leslie Franklin runs our fundraisers. Bob Lasser provides support from his many years of counseling people with quadriplegia. Hope Soforenko is a fantastic volunteer, Ben Kinney is a strong presence and Laurie Chorna's past experience as Aneice's assistant is such a comforting base. That kind of connection is a strong form of growth.

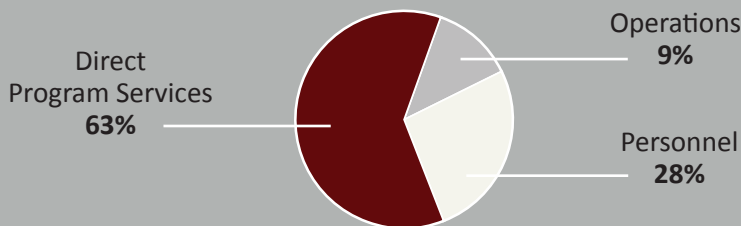
It can't be measured. It creates trust, especially when there's a tough issue to work through. And Deva Wheeler, Aneice's daughter, is a loving presence and so heart-warming, and so I feel empowered to keep presenting the long term view to the board. Thanks to Aneice's heart, we are doing so well.



Jonathan
Frieman
President,
Executive Director

Your Financial Support at Work

July 2022 – June 2023 Total Budget: \$192,000



Board of Directors

Jonathan Frieman, President, Exec. Dir.
Marty Meade, Secretary & Medicare Advocate Coordinator

Directors

Brian Jacobson	Amy Valens
Ben Kinney, Jr.	Leslie Franklin
Hope Soforenko	Robert Lasser
Deva Wheeler	Laurie Chorna

Executive Administrator

Maya Friedman

In Spirit serves people paralyzed from neurological disorders such as spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, ALS and muscular dystrophy. In Spirit is a one-of-a-kind nonprofit that directly addresses the unique needs of people affected by quadriplegia. **Your support and gift will help provide hands-on care. Credit Card donations may be made on our secure website inspiritmarin.org.**

In Spirit is a nonprofit 501(c)(3)
EIN 94-3032391

In Memoriam

This year we said farewell to four In Spirit recipients. May their memories be a blessing. And as Henry would say, *yá át tééh.*



Henry Davalos



John McNeilly



Ernst Mayer



Ricardo Giron-Reyes