

# PRESS RELEASE

Teleios Announces Inaugural Care As It Should Be Award Winners

**Hendersonville, NC November 20, 2024:** Teleios Collaborative Network (TCN) announced the third annual recipients of the Care As It Should Be Awards during the November Board of Directors Meeting.

The purpose of the Care As It Should Be Awards is to recognize those individuals who make an extraordinary impact on the patients and families who they serve daily. “We know that each of the staff members who are on the front lines provide excellent care to patients, so these awards are to recognize those who take care to the next level – those who go above and beyond to make a patient’s experience the best that it can be during such vulnerable and challenging times,” said Chris Comeaux, President and CEO of TCN.

Each TCN Member Organization was encouraged to nominate staff members who they felt elevated patient care. The nominees for the 2024 awards were: **Amy Umsted**, SW, AMOREM; **Becca Burton**, SW, Emmanuel Hospice; **Britt Fischer**, SW, Emmanuel Hospice; **Brittany Gettys**, RN Case Manager, Carolina Caring; **Cara English**, PC Provider, Four

Seasons; **Carol Vanderwerf**, RN Case Manager, Ancora Compassionate Care; **Crystal Thomas**, CNA II CHPNA, Tillery Compassionate Care; **Dani Harris**, Bereavement Coordinator, Valley Hospice; **David Stephans**, RN Case Manager, Emmanuel Hospice; **Alex Waite**, Staff Physician, Mountain Valley; **Jade Highlen**, NP, Emmanuel Hospice; **Jamie DeKorte**, RN Case Manager, Emmanuel Hospice; **Joan Blessings**, Massage Therapist, Emmanuel Hospice; **Kathy Johnson**, Hospice Aide, Ancora Compassionate Care; **Kayla O'Boyle**, Support Service Team Leader, Ancora Compassionate Care; **Linda Hicks**, NP, Mountain Valley; **Lisa Bumgarner**, RN, Carolina Caring; **Maggie Kosnik**, Receptionist, Emmanuel Hospice; **Melissa Loflin**, Administrative Assistant, Tillery Compassionate Care; **Melissa Williams**, Director of Social Services, Hospice of Eastern Idaho; **Michaele Connors**, Bereavement Coordinator MA LCMHC, Tillery Compassionate Care; **Miranda Eden**, Music Therapist, Emmanuel Hospice; **Patti Goodwin**, RN, Carolina Caring; **Tanya Newberg**, Hospice Aide, Emmanuel; and **Taryn Snyder**, Hospice Aide, Emmanuel Hospice.

The award recipients are **Crystal Thomas**, CNA II CHPNA, Tillery Compassionate Care; **Carol Vanderwerf**, RN Case Manager, Ancora Compassionate Care; **Jamie DeKorte**, RN Case Manager, Emmanuel Hospice; and **Kathy Johnson**, Hospice Aide, Ancora Compassionate Care.

Each recipient will receive a crystal etched award along with a monetary gift. The monetary award may be used to further their education and/or to celebrate with their team members.

Comeaux added, "What a wonderful honor for all of the nominees. TCN is pleased to recognize those who are committed to the missions of their respective organizations and most importantly to those who are on the front lines every day providing exemplary care."

Teleios Collaborative Network (TCN) is a nonprofit organization that shares, amongst its membership, expert leadership, industry best practices, and resources allowing community-based Hospice and Palliative Care agencies to continue their work of providing compassionate care. TCN was founded in 2017 by Four Seasons and Carolina Caring and cofounded by AMOREM and Mountain Valley and currently has fifteen member organizations spanning across the states of Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.