

Spring Luncheon



The Palm Beach Island Hospice Foundation held its annual board meeting and *Spring Luncheon* at Club Colette.

Following the board meeting, members gathered for a delightful luncheon, celebrating the Foundation's ongoing impact and future initiatives. **Mark W. Cook**, Chairman and President of Palm Beach Island Hospice Foundation, shared exciting news that the highly anticipated *Hospice Evening 2027* will take place on Thursday, February 4, 2027, at The Breakers Palm Beach. He also expressed heartfelt appreciation to the board for their unwavering support, generosity, and invaluable guidance, which continue to play a crucial role in the Foundation's success. Proceeds from *Hospice Evening 2026* directly benefited the Palm Beach Island Hospice Foundation's mission to advance excellence in end-of-life care, with a special emphasis this year on Pediatric Palliative Care and Physician Education.

During the *Luncheon*, the board also recognized supporters whose leadership and service have made a meaningful impact on the Foundation. **Carol Baxter** and **Nanette Cassidy**, esteemed chairmen of *Hospice Evening 2026*, were honored with the *2026 Hospice Ambassador Award* for their exceptional dedication and leadership. Cassidy was unable to attend the *Luncheon*.

Ann Summers, a supporter of the Foundation for over 25 years, received the prestigious *2026 Hospice Hero Award*. In 2008, she co-chaired *Hospice Evening*, and most recently, **Gracewear** honored her by naming a piece of jewelry — the Palm Beach "Armor of God" Cuff. Ann chose the Palm Beach Island Hospice Foundation as a beneficiary of a portion of the proceeds, further extending her legacy of giving in a way that reflects both her faith and compassion. This esteemed recognition highlights her unwavering commitment to care and community.

Mark W. Cook was also honored with the *2026 Hospice Hero Award*. His more than two decades of service to the organization reflect a rare combination of loyalty, vision, and steadfast leadership. A second-generation supporter, Cook has long championed the belief that hospice care is a vital part of the community. His leadership has helped shape the Foundation's strength and impact today. His service goes beyond Palm Beach, and his influence is felt across multiple organizations that share a common purpose: ensuring compassionate, high-quality care for individuals and families at life's most vulnerable moments. The board expressed its deep gratitude for the wisdom, time, and heart he has invested in this mission.

For more information about the Palm Beach Island Hospice Foundation visit HospicePB.org or call 561.832.8585.

FIRST ROW: Mark Cook and Susie Dwinell; Missy Savage, Ann Summers, Nicole Menges and Alexis Waller; **SECOND ROW:** Melinda Hassen and Carol Baxter; Jack Flagg, Ellen Merriman and Bennie Bray; **THIRD ROW:** Amanda and Charles Schumacher with Helen Ross; James and Gaye Engel with Richard Callahan; **FOURTH ROW:** Pam and Gary Patsley; Vicky Hunt and Ann Heathwood. PHOTOS: CAPEHART

