

CESTA DOMŮ 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

25 Years of Palliative Care and Public Awareness



Cesta *domů*

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Foreword

If I had to choose one word to describe Cesta Domŭ in 2025, it would be "transformation." It was a year of many changes – sometimes unexpected – but gradual enough that we could move forward without losing sight of what truly matters.

When I took on the role of Direct Care Services Manager in May, I had no idea what an intense and eventful period lay ahead. I had barely had time to get to know the team and the issues in direct care when, at the end of the year, I was entrusted with leading the entire organization, ushering in a period of new challenges and important decisions.

A major milestone in 2025 was the opening of our inpatient hospice. Launching this new service required a great deal of work, many changes, and exploring new ways to collaborate across teams. At the same time, the opening of the hospice confirmed that Cesta Domŭ is capable of growing and evolving to support patients and their loved ones in various situations and forms of care.

Our visual identity also underwent a transformation. The new face of Cesta Domŭ symbolizes our many years of experience, which we continued to gain throughout this year. A complicated maze gradually turns into a path. The path is not always straight or simple, but it is clearer, calmer, and easier to understand. It is a path we can walk together, one on which no one is left alone.

This year was a time of change within our teams as well. New colleagues joined us while others left. This made it all the more evident how important good relationships, trust, and mutual support are. It is precisely thanks to these qualities that we were able to be there for one another, our patients, and their loved ones during a fragile and uncertain time.

Each encounter with patients and their families is a reminder of the sensitivity required for our work. Every day, we witness courage, fear, intimacy, and reconciliation. I am deeply grateful and humbled by the opportunity to be part of these moments.

I am very grateful to all my colleagues who brought their experience, professionalism, empathy, and a great deal of personal dedication to their work, even in a year full of changes and extraordinary work demands. I know how much energy and focus the past year demanded, and I am all the more proud of how we managed it together – with responsibility, courage, and respect for those we serve.

My heartfelt thanks also go to our volunteers, who give us their time, attention, and support. Their willingness to stand with us and help where it is needed most is invaluable to Cesta Domů.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our donors and supporters. Your trust, long-term support, and willingness to stand by us enable us to continue meaningful work that has a real impact. I deeply appreciate that we are a community of people who care about those nearing the end of their lives and their loved ones.

As we close out 2025, we understand that transformation is a process requiring time, patience, and mutual trust. We enter the new year with hope and determination to continue fulfilling Cesta Domů's mission. Thank you to everyone who is on this journey with us.

Martina Holubová, Director

25 Years of Cesta Domů

2001 The Beginnings of Cesta Domů

In 2001, a few friends came up with the idea of founding an organization that would provide multidisciplinary palliative care. The Cesta Domů civic association was formed, and its first general meeting was held on April 7, 2001.

2002 Establishing a Counseling Center

In 2002, we established a counseling center. During its first year, the center provided consultations to 214 clients. Through phone calls and visits, the organization assessed the situation of the dying in Prague.

2003 Opening a Home Hospice

In 2003, we opened a home hospice and cared for 67 patients in its first year. We acquired our own space on Bubenská Street, where our charity shop is still located today. In October, we organized our first concert to mark World Hospice Day.

2004 Launching "Podvečery" for the Bereaved

In 2004, we launched "Podvečery" for the bereaved. Cesta Domů began organizing regular group meetings for the bereaved called "Podvečer." These meetings are still held regularly and attended by the bereaved families of Cesta Domů patients and members of the public.

2005 Making Information Available Online and in the Library

In 2005, we made information available online and in the library. We launched the Umírající.cz portal and opened a public library. Since its inception, the organization had been collecting thematically relevant scholarly and popular science publications; now,

we had the opportunity to create a space where both the general public and experts can borrow books more frequently.

2006 Gaining Recognition

In 2006, our work gained recognition when we received a letter of thanks from the Committee of Good Will for an outstanding project as part of the Olga Havel Award ceremony.

Volunteer Šimon Goldmann was honored with the Křesadlo Award and the title of Volunteer of the Year by the Hestia organization. Our library is named Library of the Year.

2008 Offering Respite Care Services

In 2008, we began offering respite care services. Our assistants support chronically and seriously ill clients with their daily activities, allowing caregivers to take time for themselves, rest, and attend to their own needs.

2009 Opening Our First Charity Shop

We opened our first charity shop on Bubenská Street. Two more shops were gradually added: one on Bělohorská Street in 2015 and one on Žitná Street in 2024. In the shops, we sell books and stationery produced by us, selected secondhand items donated to us, and small design items from local artists. The shops also serve as important meeting places for Cesta Domů staff and volunteers, who provide information about end-of-life care.

2010 Launching the Website eVzpomínky.cz

In 2010, we launched the website eVzpomínky.cz, which serves as a virtual memorial site. People can create memorials for deceased loved ones and remember them with friends and acquaintances. Today, the website is visited by around 800 users per week.

We publish the Czech translation of the highly successful children's book When Dinosaurs Die by Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown.

2011 Launching a Tradition of Charity Auctions

In 2011, we started holding charity auctions and held our first auction of fine art. By 2025, we will have raised CZK 34,594,596 from these auctions.

2012 Changes in the Management of Cesta Domů

In 2012, there were changes in the management of Cesta Domů. Longtime director Martina Špinková handed over the reins to Marek Uhlíř. Irena Zavadová becomes the head of our home hospice. We helped open the "Pod Střechou" hospice care home, which is operated by the Prague 2 City District.

2013 New Facilities

After years of searching for a suitable space, we moved to Boleslavská Street in Vinohrady. Except for the equipment rental shop, which is located one block away, we are all under one roof.

We begin planning our next move, which will not take place for another five years. Thanks to Ms. Helena Kočvarová's wishes and her family's support, we purchased a building under construction in Michle that would become our future headquarters.

2014 Launching the Interactive Website Mojesmrt.cz

We are nominated for the Křišťálová Lupa Award in the Public Service category for this website. The website allows users to create a list of their final wishes and is now visited by over 370 people per week.

2015 Expanding Our Home Hospice to Include Care for Children

After extensive preparation and gaining experience, we begin systematically caring for pediatric patients in our home hospice. Together with six other mobile hospices, we participate in a VZP pilot program that monitors the scope and costs of care for terminally ill patients in their home environments, comparing them with care provided in hospitals, nursing homes, and medical facilities.

2016 Opening the Cesta Domů Café

In 2016, we opened the Cesta Domů Café on Soukenická Street in Prague. It operates for three years.

Paseka Publishing releases *A Mortal's Guide* by journalist Ondřej Nezbeda. In the book, Nezbeda draws on his experience as a respite care assistant during his "A Different Year at Cesta Domů". He won the DILIA Litera Award for Discovery of the Year for the book.

2018 New Director of Cesta Domů

In 2018, Marek Uhlíř stepped down as director and was succeeded by Ruth Šormová. She is a special education teacher and social worker with extensive experience, as well as a post-November 1989 member of the Federal Assembly for Civic Forum.

2019 Moving to Michle

We are moving to our new headquarters in Prague 4-Michle while continuing our full operations. We have requested that the new street be named after Helena Kočvarová because we owe our new headquarters to her and her family. Our new facilities will allow us to open a residential respite care service and our own educational center.

2022 Joining an Ambulance Service Project

We are joining an ambulance service project with the City of Prague and the Prague Emergency Medical Service. The project aims to enable ambulance patients in the terminal stage of an incurable illness to receive palliative care. This spares patients the need to be transported to a hospital and die alone without the presence of family and loved ones.

2023 Providing Support on the Issue of Suicide

Katarína Vlčková becomes the new head physician.

We publish two books on suicide: a translation of the contemporary story *La despedida del jaguar* for adolescents and the anthology *Suicide, and What Next...?!* for the general public and professionals. In September, together with the National Institute of Mental Health, we will organize a discussion at Bio Oko titled *When a Loved One Takes Their Own Life*, followed by a march for bereaved family members to Stromovka Park.

We define the values on which Cesta Domů is founded: humanity, professionalism, respect, openness, and teamwork.

2024 Talking to Schools About Death

The two-year project, *Should Death be Discussed at School*, which explores end-of-life issues in Czech schools, culminates in March with a discussion at Bio Oko. The discussion will focus on communicating about death and supporting educators. We will publish a journal of the same name and launch an e-learning course titled *Life Has a Beginning and an End*. Over 130 educators and school administrators have completed our special seminars and webinars, and we plan to continue offering them.

The Mission of Cesta Domů

We provide top-quality, sensitive, professional care and support to people at the end of life and their loved ones.

We raise awareness of dying and palliative care in society so that these topics are perceived as natural and understandable parts of life.

We initiate systemic changes that lead to improved access to and higher standards of palliative care.

Life matters till the end.

2025 in Numbers

4,852

counseling sessions provided

474

hospice patients

448

outpatients

148

employees

140

volunteers

103

educational events

beds in the newly opened hospice

Key Moments of 2025

Opening an Inpatient Hospice

In September, we launched a pilot program for inpatient hospice care, thereby improving the availability and continuity of care. Home-based hospice care is not an option for every patient, especially if there is no close family member to provide care or if the caregiver lacks the strength to provide round-the-clock care. The new ward at our Prague-Michle headquarters offers patients a home-like environment with professional care provided respectfully and kindly. It was established on the premises of the residential respite care service, with which it operated concurrently until the end of the year. Currently, all four beds are exclusively dedicated to hospice care.

Securing a Legislative Change

In the summer of 2025, after several years of advocacy, the Cesta Domů counseling center secured changes to the allocation of care allowances for palliative care patients. Cesta Domů received the "Achievement of the Year" award from the Center for Palliative Care for drafting and securing this legislative change. Starting in September 2025, end-of-life patients will automatically be entitled to a Level 3 care allowance for 12 months, based solely on confirmation from a specialist physician, without an assessment. The decision must be issued within 30 days at the latest instead of taking many months as was previously the case.

The Maze Has Become a Path

In the middle of the year, we unveiled a new visual identity. The original maze with a little house in the center, created by Martina Špinková, the founder and first director of Cesta Domů, has been replaced by a flowing brick-colored line inspired by the color of our building's roof. The idea of the journey home remains, but it no longer winds through a maze—it is calm and direct. This symbolizes that, after a quarter-century of shared effort, people receiving end-of-life care will no longer wander. The new logo was created by the Designiq studio. The simple line is the main element and is complemented by the new motto, "It is about life, right to the end."

Twenty Years of the Umírání.cz Portal

Since 2005, Cesta Domů's Umírání.cz information portal has helped more than a million visitors navigate the end-of-life process and the period following the death of a loved one. In March 2025, the portal celebrated its 20th anniversary and its online counseling service, through which our experienced colleagues have provided expert information and support to thousands of people seeking advice. In September, the portal also marked the tenth anniversary of its discussion forum, a safe space where people can share their stories and find support.



Care

In 2025, Cesta Domů expanded its healthcare services to include an inpatient hospice, in addition to home hospice and outpatient palliative and supportive care. We provided social services to chronically ill bedridden clients, people who have lost a loved one, and caregivers. Part of our mission is to provide direct care and pass on experience and skills. That is why our experts devoted a significant portion of their time to leading courses, mentoring interns, and collaborating on educational programs, such as interviews, videos, and website development.

The message from our family is brief and clear – we could not do this without you. Your work is of great significance. None of you is more important or less important than the others. You work like a well-oiled machine, in the best sense of the word.

Martina Holubová served as the Direct Care Services Manager from May through November 2025; in November, Katarína Vlčková took over the position.

Care in 4 Minutes

Consultations and Support for Caregivers

For many people, the counseling center is their first point of contact with Cesta Domů. The center guides patients and their loved ones from across the country through care planning, helps them manage challenging situations, and recommends appropriate services. Consultations can be done by phone, online, via email, or in person. Interest among caregivers is growing year by year. In 2025, we provided 4,356 consultations, 229 more than the previous year, and dedicated 1,350 hours to our clients, 158 more than the year before.

Continuity of Care from Outpatient Care to Hospice

In 2025, the healthcare team responded to the growing demand by receiving 1,041 requests for care. They strove to provide maximum support to patients, even while operating at full capacity. We provided outpatient care to 448 new patients and conducted 637 medical examinations. Thirty-six percent of patients were transferred to home hospice care when their condition worsened. During the year, the home hospice provided multidisciplinary care to 466 people, including nine children. We cared for adults for an average of 13 days and children for 42 days. Nearly 200 patients were visited by home care and respite care assistants, even on weekends and holidays, to ensure care was provided as soon as possible.

Everything Needed for Home Care

The assistive device rental service is an integral part of Cesta Domů's comprehensive care. It enables people to remain at home until the end by delivering essential equipment directly to their homes. For patients in our home hospice and outpatient care programs, we provide not only the selection and rental of assistive devices but also their delivery and installation. This includes adjustable beds with pressure-relief mattresses, which usually form the basis of home care. In 2025, we made 575 service calls and loaned out 1,483 devices, including 275 beds.

Growing Support for Bereaved Families

Interest in bereavement support has grown significantly. In 2025, we provided support to 274 people at our counseling center and conducted 879 consultations, hundreds more than the previous year. This represents a tenfold increase since 2019. There has also been a notable rise in clients who have lost loved ones to suicide. Twenty-five of these individuals reached out to us. Our services include perinatal support. In 2025, our counseling center supported 32 clients who had lost a baby. We recently launched a support group for parents who have undergone an induced abortion for medical reasons.



Health Services

In 2025, Cesta Domů cared for its patients through home hospice care, outpatient palliative care, and supportive care. Starting in September, they also provided inpatient hospice care. Home hospice and outpatient care are intended for people who wish to spend the end of their lives at home, surrounded by their loved ones who care for them with the support of specialized palliative care. The inpatient hospice is intended for situations in which patients have no one to care for them at home or in which doing so would place an unreasonable burden on the family. Our goal is to always alleviate pain and other difficulties associated with serious illness, preserve the patient's dignity, and ensure the greatest possible level of comfort. We provide care through close collaboration among our entire multidisciplinary team.

Thank you for the invaluable help and support that the Cesta Domů team has always provided me. Thanks to you, we were able to fulfill my husband's wish not to end up alone in a hospital or another facility. He was able to die peacefully and quietly at home, and he was never alone.

It is a joy for our doctors to work in a team that protects a person's dignity until the very end of their life. It is wonderful to hear from the dying themselves that they feel like they are in heaven when they are with us. I realize that the credit for this touching feedback goes above all to the nurses and hospice care assistants, who create this safe and loving environment for our patients. (Katarína Vlčková, department chief)

In 2025, the healthcare team focused on meeting the ever-growing demand for services. We received 1,041 requests for healthcare services. Our priority was to provide every applicant with the maximum possible support, even during periods when we were operating at full capacity.

We provided outpatient care to 448 new patients during the year. During a visit, the doctor prescribes treatment for current and potential health issues and creates a care plan with the patient based on their individual priorities. If a patient's health status changes, their family can contact the outpatient nurses by phone on weekdays. The nurses consult with the family on the next steps, which may include adjusting medication, scheduling a follow-up examination, or admitting the patient to home hospice care. A total of 637 outpatient medical examinations were conducted during the year. More than one-third of patients admitted to the outpatient clinic were transferred to home hospice care when their condition worsened. One patient used the services of an inpatient hospice.

I was apprehensive about the hospice. But it is fantastic. It helps in a difficult situation when you are afraid of what will happen to you. The main things I have found here are certainty and peace of mind."

I could not imagine my grandmother dying at home. My mom tried to be strong, but later, we both admitted that we were afraid. Two days before she passed away, it was clear that the end was near. We spent time with her in silence. We cried, talked, and even laughed. It was a strange, sad, yet calm and peaceful time. This experience changed our attitude toward death and the fears often associated with it. If people knew that dying is a natural process and that there are pain-relieving

medications and palliative sedation, perhaps they would accept death with less fear.

Cesta Domů provided multidisciplinary home hospice care to 466 people during the year, including nine children. We cared for adult patients in the hospice for an average of 13 days, but most often for just two days. We cared for 111 patients for three days or less. We cared for pediatric patients for an average of 42 days. Cesta Domů has been providing systematic care to pediatric patients for 11 years. Since 2018, we have served not only Prague, but also the entire Central Bohemian Region. Over the past eleven years, we have supported nearly 90 families caring for a child with a life-threatening or life-limiting illness. In 2025, our medical team included four external pediatricians, who enabled us to provide palliative care to pediatric patients with various diagnoses.

The children who come to us need us to have faith, even when things do not go as we hope. We must stay by their parents' sides and give them a sense of security in every difficult situation. When science and reason are not enough, we need to be prepared to go beyond the boundaries of medicine and work with words, touch, music, scents, hugs, and also with energy or prayer. The heart knows no limits. It is the faith of each of us – the faith that if not us, then something else is stronger than suffering (Katarína Vlčková, department chief)

The Cesta Domů medical team was able to care for a maximum of 25 patients, with an average of 18.5 patients. In 2025, our collaboration with the Prague Emergency Medical Service continued, enabling terminally ill patients to die at home if they have suitable conditions and if we have the capacity to respond quickly and admit them to home hospice care.

In addition to construction work, administrative procedures, and software changes, launching the new inpatient hospice service required creating new work processes and defining responsibilities for individual professions. The team was strengthened with four new nurses, and the assistants were trained in the inpatient respite care service to meet the legal requirements for healthcare professionals. Some of the doctors' and support team members' work hours were allocated to the new service. A physical therapist was also added to the healthcare team to provide in-patient hospice patients with pain relief and mental relaxation through gentle physical therapy techniques.

We cared for a total of eight patients in the inpatient hospice, with an average length of stay of 31 days.

Doctors participated in testing and improving an artificial intelligence application for generating medical records. This application reduces the time doctors spend on documentation, allowing them to devote more time to direct contact with patients and their families.

The medical team consists of staff doctors, nurses, and on-call personnel. Pavel Klimeš led the nurses, and Katarína Vlčková led the doctors.



Counseling Center

For many people, the counseling center is their first point of contact with Cesta Domů. Clients from across the country discuss options for caring for themselves or a loved one at the end of life. Counseling staff guide them through care planning and provide contacts for available services.

Attention is also given to clients' emotions. Staff work with clients to help them cope with their situation. The counseling center is also sought out by people coping with the loss of a loved one. Consultations can take place by phone, in person, via video call, or via email. The online counseling service answers hundreds of inquiries every year.

Interest in consultations among patients and caregivers has increased year by year. In 2025, a total of 4,356 consultations took place, which is 229 more than the previous year. Staff devoted 1,350 hours to these consultations, which is 158 more hours than in 2024. Interest in our support services increased significantly among bereaved family members

and caregivers. By the end of 2025, we had compiled statistics on 274 support clients and conducted a total of 879 consultations.

We exceeded the 2024 client count by several dozen and conducted hundreds more consultations. Since 2019, when the counseling center began providing systematic care for bereaved members of the public, the number of consultations has increased tenfold.

If we were to identify a typical client of the center's bereavement support services, it would be a woman who cared for her sick parent and did not use Cesta Domů's healthcare services. Most often, clients contact the counseling center within a week or a month after the death, and it is a one-time occurrence.

Compared to 2024, there was an increase in clients who utilized regular support, and contact was repeated. The average number of consultations per client was four, one more than in the previous year.

I am sorry I am crying again, but whenever I talk to someone from palliative care, it is so different; it really moves me. Thank you so much for your support and information.

In 2025, we supported significantly more bereaved family members of loved ones who had died by suicide than in previous years. Suicide was the third most commonly reported cause of death after illness and perinatal loss. While we supported four clients following this type of loss in 2023 and six in 2024, in 2025, we supported twenty-five individuals who had lost a loved one to suicide. These are highly demanding situations requiring swift and sensitive support. The counseling center's role is to provide a safe space for stabilization in the first hours and days and to accompany individuals and provide support as their emotional experience gradually evolves in the following weeks and months. Counseling center staff can also provide practical guidance and referrals to other appropriate specialists. Sensitive topics place a greater psychological burden on staff and require regular supervision, as well as individual and team supervision and ongoing training.

In 2025, the counseling center supported 32 clients who had experienced the death of a baby during pregnancy, childbirth, or shortly thereafter. A new support group was launched for individuals who had undergone a medical termination of pregnancy. Nine clients participated, including two married couples and five women. The group's thematic focus allowed participants to safely share specifics about their experiences and focus on their grief. Five group meetings were held, and the parents rated their experience positively, viewing it as an important source of support on their healing journey.

The counseling center's team compiles and updates information on the Umíraní.cz portal and adds new topics. In 2025, for instance, links to relevant legislation were added to sections dedicated to practical care arrangements before and after the death of a loved one.

The website also includes a regularly updated directory of services with more than a thousand contacts. This directory is accessible via the Záchranka mobile app and the MedText app for emergency medical technicians. The counseling center's Advisory Service has added a new service category: "Senior Care Homes with Palliative Care."

After several years of advocacy efforts, the Advisory Center successfully pushed through changes to the allocation of care allowances to patients in palliative care. Cesta Domů received the 2025 Achievement of the Year award from the Center for Palliative Care for preparing and pushing through the legislative amendment, which will significantly

simplify and speed up the process of granting care allowances to palliative care patients starting in September 2025.

We also established a partnership with the Digital and Information Agency. At the counseling center's initiative, the agency published clear information on the [Mojedatovaschranka.cz](https://mojedatovaschranka.cz) website about what happens to a data mailbox after its holder dies. Together with the Human Rights Commissioner, the counseling center participated in a roundtable discussion in the Czech Senate on care for the bereaved.

Petra Černá leads the Counseling Center.

Thank you once again for your help. Throughout this entire complicated process, you have been like a guiding light, showing me the way with immense patience, kindness, and humanity.

Support Services

Cesta Domů provides psychosocial and spiritual support through psychosocial workers and a chaplain. They provide practical and emotional support to patients, caregivers, and bereaved family members in difficult situations. Upon admission to hospice or outpatient care, they visit patients, offer advice on social issues, and provide psychological and spiritual support to patients and their loved ones. They support the bereaved during the grieving process, both individually and in groups.

Over the course of the year, support team staff made 810 home visits to patients and conducted nearly a thousand phone or video calls. There were 729 consultations with bereaved family members. However, only some bereaved family members take advantage of this support, typically receiving up to five in-person consultations.

Once a month, team members organized "Podvečer," a traditional group meeting for bereaved family members. Eleven sessions were regularly attended by family members of Cesta Domů patients, as well as interested members of the public. The groups averaged twelve people. During the year, there were four meetings for parents who had lost a child. In 2025, we did not neglect the specific age group of bereaved teenagers. We prepared the fourth cycle of a therapeutic support group for them, and two meetings for parents were held concurrently with the five group sessions.

On All Souls' Day, we organized our annual Memorial Gathering. Several dozen bereaved family members met with healthcare professionals and other Cesta Domů staff who had cared for their loved ones at the ECCB church on Korunní Street.

The support team also provides care and support to Cesta Domů staff, both individually and in groups. During the weekly multidisciplinary team meeting, Pastor Magdalena Ondrová leads a ritual to remember deceased patients. Each season, she organizes a communal ritual in the garden for all employees and volunteers to commemorate the deceased.

Pavel Duba runs the Support Services.

I wanted to thank you for creating and maintaining the safe space at Podvečer. I realize how much sustained attention and effort goes into making this sharing around the table possible. I came here hoping to support others, but the gathering showed me that I am still grieving and do not understand everything. I was taken aback by what various situations brought up for me, and by how diverse our grieving processes are. This makes me appreciate all the more that I was heard and acknowledged. (support group participant)

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

A chaplain is available to believers and non-believers alike during times of care, farewell, and mourning? She provides spiritual support and helps people with matters related to the end of life and its meaning. She can help prepare a funeral service and support those who are grieving.



Respite Care

The goal of respite care services is to support individuals who care for a terminally ill person at home, often a bedridden loved one. For the past six years, Cesta Domů has provided care in the form of both in-home and residential services. They serve long-term clients, as well as families with a loved one at the end of life who receive care from an outpatient clinic or home hospice.

There were 224 clients registered with the in-home respite care service, which is 50 more than last year. Caregivers made 3,041 visits and provided 5,530 hours of care. This averaged 12 visits per workday. Nearly 200 clients were patients receiving home hospice or outpatient care. Caregivers often visited these clients on weekends and public holidays so they could receive care quickly after admission and their loved ones could consult with professionals.

Approximately 30 clients of the home care service were long-term. Caregivers helped these clients with activities related to daily self-care, such as eating, dressing, and personal hygiene, and supported their interests by reading with them, listening to music with them, and talking with them. Among these clients was one child.

In 2025, field respite care assistants were also caring for several long-term clients who were nearing the end of their lives. These assistants were able to prepare their clients' loved ones for the approaching end of life and share information with healthcare professionals. Some clients even received support from them through this process without hospice care.

Your work should be included in the integrated emergency response system. You deserve credit for saving lives. I was already nearing the end of my strength.

LOOK BACK AT THE INPATIENT RESPITE CARE SERVICE

The residential respite care service ceased operations at the end of the year due to its conversion into an inpatient hospice. Starting in late September, two beds were used for a pilot program for the inpatient hospice, and two beds served respite care clients until the end of the year. During the year, 44 clients used the residential respite care service, spending a total of 109 stays of varying lengths. Caregivers provided these clients with 4,896 hours of direct care. The average length of stay was 11 days. Fourteen clients used both in-home and residential respite care services. Volunteers from Cesta Domů also participated in bedside care, especially in the afternoons, evenings, and on weekends, spending a total of 548 hours with clients.

The residential respite care service ceased operations on the last weekend of Advent. Since January 2020, it had operated in Cesta Domů's new facilities in Prague-Michle, which featured four single rooms.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, it facilitated 111 stays in its first year. This number gradually increased to 123 in 2021, 127 in 2022, 157 in 2023, and 153 in 2024. It maintained an occupancy rate of at least 90% long term. Stays ranged from three days to six weeks and were tailored to the needs of caregivers. There were no age restrictions for the target group.

Martina Tesařová led the respite care team. Petra Rendlová coordinated the outreach services, and Romana Giovagnoniová managed the residential care services.

I was very surprised by how much emotional strength and compassion you and your team possess, and how you are able to treat patients and their families with the utmost care.

Together with our clients, we celebrate birthdays, Christmas, and New Year's Eve. We hosted get-togethers in the living room or on the terrace. We sang songs, played board games, and solved countless crossword puzzles and word searches. We accompanied many of our clients at the end of their lives. We listened to countless life stories and experienced many of them alongside our clients. (Romana Giovagnoniová, Coordinator of the Residential Respite Care Service)



Rental service

Assistive devices make it easier to care for seriously ill and dying people in their homes.

To ensure these devices are available to all families in our hospice and outpatient care, we operate a rental service. Our staff will help select the appropriate device, deliver it to the patient's home, and set it up. The most common items are adjustable beds with special mattresses. We also provide these devices to the general public to a lesser extent; in 2025, this accounted for about one-fifth of all loans.

During the year, rental service staff made 575 visits to patients and rented out 1,483 pieces of equipment. Patients in Cesta Domů's home hospice and outpatient care programs most frequently used adjustable beds with anti-decubitus mattresses, oxygen concentrators, commode chairs, and wheelchairs.

In 2025, we purchased six new oxygen concentrators. We usually purchase two to three per year, but this year we made an exception due to financial support from a donor and the need to replace a larger number of devices at the end of their service life. At the same time, we purchased two new adjustable beds.

Jan Tošovský managed the assistive device lending program in 2025.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of Cesta Domů. Without their involvement, it would not be possible to ensure the scope or quality of our activities. In 2025, 140 people of various ages, professions, and interests contributed a total of 9,173 hours to Cesta Domů – more than 4.5 FTEs – the highest number in the organization's history.

I am part of a good cause. I feel cared for. Cesta Domů is a safe space for stepping out of my comfort zone.

Volunteers worked over 5,500 hours at three Cesta Domů charity shops. Nearly 1,500 of those hours were devoted to direct services, including care for hospice patients and clients of the residential respite care service, the assistive device lending library, the counseling center, and administrative support.

Volunteers also played a significant behind-the-scenes role at the organization, providing over 1,500 hours of support in 2025. They assisted at the reception desk, tended to the flowers and garden, and handled other operational tasks.

Volunteers dedicated 263 hours to Cesta Domů's educational programs, primarily by teaching, assisting in the library, and contributing to writing projects. They were also an indispensable part of Cesta Domů's events. In 2025, for instance, volunteers contributed 308 hours to organizing a charity auction.

Tereza Lepešková and Markéta Novotná served as volunteer coordinators at Cesta Domů in 2025.



The following volunteers helped us in 2025:

Lenka Attel, Gabriela Babulíková, Olga Banýrová, Vendula Bednářová, Zuzana Benetková, Alice Bílková, Robert Bláha, Martina Borovková, Eliška Bramborová, Irena Buchtová, Jana Bukovská, Jan Cigánik, Michaela Čaňková, Magdalena Černá, Michaela Černá, Veronika Dobrovolská, Karolína Drábková, Pavla Drvotová, Maria Dvořáková, Simona Dvořáková, Barbora Faiř Repická, Klára Fischerová, Bohumila Fleyberková, Lenka Frízlová, Ekaterina Golovko, Dana Hajná, Jitka Hanko, Dagmar Hasíková, Jan Havlíček, Jana Hillairet, Anna Hojná, Lenka Holubcová, Jiřina Hovorková, Pavla Hroudová, Libuše Hulánová, Miloslava Chalupová, Jana Janžurová, Klára Jindrová, Hana Jiříčková, Jaroslava Karenová, Eliška Kasinová, Alena Kasperová, Tereza Kaucká, Alexandra Kejharová, Alena Kellerová, Alexandra Kmoch Chrastilová, Andrea Knight,

Ivana Kolářová, Šárka Kotačková, Pavlína Kotyzová, Šárka Koudelková, Martina Kubová, Lenka Kučerová, Šimona Kukanová, Kateřina Kuklíková, Marie Kuříková, Hana Kyrálová, Lenka Landová, Kateřina Letošníková, Jana Macháčková, Helena Machová, Eva Majerová, Agáta Mančušková, Dana Manová, Hana Marková, Dagmar Markupová, Miroslava Mathauserová, Andrea Matoušková, Jana Michlová, Alexandra Minxová, Vendula Mošová, Kamila Murariková, Miloslava Nováková, Dagmar Novotná, Eva Novotná, Jakub Novotný, Eva Öhmová, Žaneta Ondroušková, Jana Opletalová, Marie Orlová, Michaela Pavelková, Martin Pekárek, Kristýna Pekárková, Lucie Peřinová, Slavěna Podloucká, Helena Pojarová, Helena Povolná, Eva Procházková, Hana Procházková, Pavlína Procházková, Veronika Puchernová, Leonardo Ragusa, Alena Rendzejová, Jana Rottová, Martina Roubalová, Martina Rumlová, Alena Ryšková, Naďa Řeháková, Jerome Salem, Eva Sandalová, Blanka Sedláčková, Alžběta Schirlová, Lenka Schwarzová, Jiří Sirovátka, Adriana Skálová, Martina Skorčíková, Adéla Skoupá, Ludmila Skurovcová, Zina Sladkovská, Petra Snížková, Zuzana Soběslavská, Eva Soumarová, Barbora Stejskalová, Karolína Stupková, Pavlína Šedivá, Katarína Šifrová, Ilona Šmídová, Alžběta Šrůtková, Kristýna Štecová, Jana Švarcová, Alena Tomanová, Alexandr Truskov, Kateřina Tumová, Jakub Vágner, Barbora Váchová, Monika Valentová, Khrystyna Verbytska, Barbora Vignerová Mazancová, Hátá Vicherková, Eva Volfová, Jana Vondráčková, Zuzana Zoe Vondřichová, Andrea Weldonová, Katy Youngová, Anna Zádrapová, Lucie Zajíčková, Irena Zavadová, Petr Zenkl, Markéta Zenklová, Ondřej Žůrek

A VOLUNTEER'S STORY

When Pavla was caring for her dying grandfather 26 years ago, Cesta Domů did not yet exist. At that time, her family had to manage without professional help and handle everything on their own. Later, the trained architect and artist learned about Cesta Domů's founding and followed its work from the beginning.

Once her children had grown up, she decided to get involved. She donated her paintings to an auction but did not offer her services as a volunteer until later. She found her place as a volunteer during the opening of the first charity store on Bubenská Street.

Initially, the shop operated at a leisurely pace, where volunteers could find time to read between customer and donor visits. However, it gradually transformed into a bustling, fast-paced environment. During their four-hour shifts, volunteers are constantly on their feet, juggling various tasks simultaneously, from sales and accepting donations to having sensitive conversations with people who come not only to shop, but also to find relief from their hardships and confide in us about their losses. "I am glad that the concept of these shops continues to work. What makes sense to me is its environmental aspect – that things are not thrown away, but returned to circulation," says Pavla. After completing her volunteer training, she began working in direct care with families, as well as teaching. She also occasionally performs at benefit concerts organized by Cesta Domů.

This diverse range of activities, along with meeting other volunteers during supervision sessions and other occasions, is crucial for her. It helps her avoid feeling overwhelmed by the constant stream of negative news from around the world. Despite the long-standing joy she finds in volunteering, she had to recognize her limits while caring for her own father. At that time, she scaled back her in-home services.

"Volunteering gives me much more than it takes away. What I value most are the relationships and friendships with other volunteers and colleagues at Cesta Domů, as well as the opportunity to step out of my social bubble and meet people of all ages – from 25-year-olds to 80-year-olds. Knowing that I can support Cesta Domů at the charity shop or at concerts and also devote my time to caregiving families, giving them a few hours to catch their breath, gives me the energy and purpose to continue on this path," she concludes.



Awareness and education

End-of-life care is extremely important and natural. Death is an inevitable part of human existence. Because this topic is not discussed much, and people often find themselves unexpectedly in the role of caregiver, public awareness and access to information are crucial. (Monika Laušmanová, vice chair of the board of directors of Stavební spořitelna ČS)

We promote the idea of a dignified end of life and a good death throughout society; educate professionals and the public about palliative care; transform our experiences caring for patients and bereaved families into books and other publications; strive to raise awareness about dying and death; educate teachers and students at all levels; operate websites for the terminally ill, caregivers, and those who are grieving; advocate for social and legislative changes aimed at improving care for the dying in the Czech Republic.

Tomáš Uhlíř has been the Outreach Manager since November 2025.

Public Awareness in Four Minutes

Education with a broad impact

Education is a key part of Cesta Domů's mission and reaches both professionals and the general public. In 2025 alone, we organized 103 events for 1,585 participants, hosted 39 interns through our services, and spoke at 30 professional and public awareness events. Cesta Domů experts, external lecturers, and volunteers participated in these educational efforts, working together to help people better prepare for the end of life.

Children Also Want to Understand Their Emotions

The Cesta Domů publishing house offers new books that help children understand emotions, loss, and grief. Grandhotel of Emotions offers a gentle look at the world of feelings, and Under the Turf approaches the topic of death with a sense of perspective. The latter won an award in the "Most Beautiful Children's Book" competition at the Havlíčkův Brod Book Fair. A Ticket to the Land of Hope explores the theme of saying goodbye and has inspired workshops for children. The authors have met with children and adults at festivals and discussions where they have used the books to start conversations about difficult subjects.

Addressing Challenging Topics in Schools

We focus on systematic work with students and educators. In 2025, we organized nearly 30 diverse events for them, ranging from interactive workshops for children ("Talking About the End of Life") to expert discussions for college students and methodological seminars for teachers. We contributed to the preparation of new methodological guidelines from the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports. The Mobile Hospice Forum's fall campaign, "Living Out Your Days at Home in Schools," was significant, and 515 schools received our materials and a graphic spot based on the leaflet for bereaved children, I Lost Someone, Too.

A Strong Year for Charity Shops

In 2025, Cesta Domů had run three charity shops in Prague that combined sales with educational programs and community gatherings. The shops offer books from the publishing house, as well as designer and secondhand goods. They also raise public awareness about care, dying, and grieving. Volunteers played a significant role in running these shops, contributing 5,614 hours of service. Proceeds from the sale of secondhand goods directly support the organization's core activities. Total sales reached a record CZK 10.1 million.



Education

Education is an integral part of Cesta Domů's mission. We share knowledge and experience so that professional and lay caregivers can prepare for the challenging final stages of life for patients and their loved ones.

At the Education Center, we organized 103 educational events and conducted several other customized courses during the year. In total, we trained 1,585 people through these programs.

We hosted 39 interns from various professions through Cesta Domů's services and gave lectures and led discussions at 30 professional and public awareness events. We also collaborated with several schools.

Nearly 400 hours of in-person instruction at the Education Center in Michle formed the foundation of our educational program in 2025. This program was based on experiential learning, hands-on practice, and sharing. In addition to in-person instruction, we focused on developing audiovisual content.

Olga Banýřová has been leading education at Cesta Domů since August 2025.

I would recommend this webinar to everyone – not just educators, but also the general public – so they can learn how to reflect on the topic of death and how to overcome their fear of talking about it. (participant in the course Life has a beginning and an end)

TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS

In 2025, we expanded our educational portfolio to include several new courses, including an interactive seminar titled "How to Support the Bereaved." We also continued to offer webinars for primary care physicians. We collaborated with social and health service organizations that commissioned custom courses from us. We organized case study seminars for teams involved in or directly providing palliative care.

Participants in our in-person courses and webinars met with experts from all of Cesta Domů's direct care teams, as well as external instructors. Our in-house instructors delivered 323 hours of instruction and devoted additional hours to educational discussions and lectures. Cesta Domů volunteers also played a significant role in these educational activities, contributing 125 hours.

Cesta Domů's chief physician, Katarína Vlčková, coordinated two thematic sessions at the 16th National Conference on Palliative Medicine in Plzeň. Martina Tesařová, head of respite care services at Cesta Domů, spoke at the "Palliative Care in Senior Care Homes" conference. Andrea Kašíková, a member of the Cesta Domů nursing team, participated in the second national conference, "Nurses in Palliative Care," as a speaker. She presented a talk titled "The Nurse in Palliative Care Outpatient Services – When It Is About Quality of Life, Not Just Diagnoses."

I highly appreciate the instructor, who, in addition to sharing his knowledge and experience, created a very pleasant atmosphere and is able to discuss even difficult and sensitive topics with ease and perspective. (participant in the course How to deliver bad news)

VIDEO GUIDE FOR INFORMATION MATERIALS FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' OFFICES

Thanks to the support of the UNIQA Endowment Fund at the Pontis Foundation, we have created two video guides to help general practitioners navigate informational materials and publications from our publishing house. Doctors can use these materials in their practices when caring for terminally ill patients and supporting their families.

ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC HOME HOSPICE CARE

With the support of the Vlček Family Foundation, we started developing six specialized video courses in 2025. This multidisciplinary educational program was developed in collaboration with doctors, nurses, social workers, support team members, and other Cesta Domů specialists. It is designed to help home hospice teams expand care for pediatric and adolescent patients. The courses will be available in fall 2026.

I appreciate the overall sense of belonging, safety, and calm, which made it possible to address a difficult topic and understand how to talk to children about death on both a professional and personal level. (participant in the course Why and how to talk to children about dying and death)

EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

In 2025, we continued to explore the topic of end-of-life care across all levels of education. We met with elementary school students in grades 1–5 and high school students at discussions and workshops, both at Cesta Domů and elsewhere. We also continued our seminars and webinars for educators, preparing teachers to talk to children about death and handle situations where a death affects the school community.

To ensure long-term support, we provide schools with instructional materials featuring specific lesson plans and recommendations for working with the entire class. We also develop turnkey activities, such as discussions on palliative care, for high school and vocational school students. Our goal is to make schools places where difficult topics are not taboo.

We participated in the November campaign organized by the Mobile Hospice Forum and supported by the UNIQA Endowment Fund at the Pontis Foundation. As part of the campaign, we used ÁMOS vision touchscreen panels in over 500 schools nationwide to share informational and instructional materials to help students and teachers discuss difficult end-of-life topics.

We offered a course titled "How to Manage Your Digital Legacy", led by staff from the Cesta Domů counseling center, to professionals and the general public. Almost every month, we hold a practical course titled "How to Care for Your Loved Ones", prepared by respite care service staff for informal caregivers.

Cesta domů

DOMŮ

Jsme domácí
hospic.
Nákupem ná
pomáháte.

POD DRNEM

Pestrá knížka o smrti
pro zvědavou drobot



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vše za 49,- - 150,- Kč

Publishing

Through a small, specialized publishing house, Cesta Domů raises awareness about dying, death, and end-of-life care. We publish materials for professionals and the general public, including people at the end of life, their loved ones, caregivers, children and their parents, students, and educators. We present new titles at events for the general public and professionals and organize meetings with authors. Our publishing activities also include producing original stationery.

In 2025, the publishing house expanded its broad thematic scope with several notable titles. Early in the year, the publication "Death and Dying in Religious and Ethnic Traditions" was released. This book explores traditions and customs surrounding the care of the sick and dying, funeral rituals, and mourning practices among the various religious groups and ethnic communities in our country. The public had the opportunity to meet the book's author, Alena Scheinostová, and invited experts during discussions at the Municipal Library in Prague and the Prague Book Fair.

The new book "Grandhotel of Emotions" serves as a gentle guide through the world of children's emotions. In it, German author Lidia Branković uses the metaphor of emotions as hotel guests, where each feeling has its own space and needs. Other new releases were also aimed at young readers. "Beneath the Turf" uses empathy and humor to explore cultural customs and processes related to the end of life and mourning. At the World of Books event, authors Katharina von der Gathen and Anke Kuhl, along with translator Kateřina Klabanová, met with schoolchildren and the public. The book won second place in the "Most Beautiful Children's Book" competition at the Autumn Book Fair in Havlíčkův Brod.

"A Ticket to the Land of Hope" opens up a world of imagination, memories, and farewells. It helps young readers understand the loss of a loved one and the enduring relationships left behind. At the Svět knihy fair, author Bohumil Kuzebauch, illustrator Kateřina Coufalová, and actor Martin Myšička led a workshop on the book. Another workshop took place at Knihex in June, and a third will be held in the fall at the National Gallery's Exhibition Palace. A panel of experts selected the book for inclusion in the Best Books for Children catalog.

Interest in our professional publications is increasing due to the development of palliative care in the Czech Republic and the establishment of new palliative care teams. We presented these publications at conferences, including "Nurses in Palliative Care," "Palliative Care in Nursing Homes," the Spring Conference of the Královské Vinohrady University Hospital, the 4th Conference on Palliative Care in Hospitals in Zlín, the 7th Conference on Pediatric Palliative Care in Litomyšl, and the 16th National Conference on Palliative Medicine in Plzeň. In the fall, we published an updated reprint of Zdeněk Kalvach's Manual of Palliative Care for Dying Patients, followed by a reprint of A Truly Practical Guide to Pediatric Palliative Care for Physicians and Nurses by British pediatrician Justin Amery at the end of the year.

We continued our successful series of "Advent readings", original calendars featuring short texts for each day of Advent, with an eighth volume designed for young children. We presented the publication at a reading in November at the Municipal Library in Prague. We also participated in the "Nordic Advent Reading", a traditional event dedicated to Nordic literature. The event honored the literary legacy of Helena Kadečková, a translator who has long supported the work of Cesta Domů.

Markéta Čábelová is the editor-in-chief of the Cesta Domů publishing house.

"DID YOU KNOW THAT..."

The Cesta Domů publishing house was founded in 2015, but the organization has been engaged in publishing activities focused on the topics of death, dying, and palliative care since its inception in 2001.



Library

The Cesta Domů library offers specialized titles in palliative care and other medical fields, nursing, psychology, psychotherapy, social work, and more. The collection also includes thematically organized fiction for adults and children, comic books, audiobooks, and board games.

In 2025, the library's collection included 5,771 books and other items. It expanded its collections to include literature on complementary therapies in palliative and bereavement care, such as aromatherapy, exercise, massage, psychedelic-assisted therapy, animal-assisted therapy, and art therapy. In June, the library hosted the traditional "Night with Andersen" event for the children of Cesta Domů employees and volunteers.

The Cesta Domů Library is a well-functioning, thoughtfully managed library that respects the needs of its users. We appreciate that it is constantly improving the quality of its services. (methodology department of the Prague municipal library)

Marek Chalupa is the librarian at Cesta Domů.

"DID YOU KNOW THAT..."

The library serves professionals, students, and the general public and is open three days a week. A significant portion of the collection consists of foreign titles that are often unavailable in other libraries. The library was inspired by the Halley Stewart Library at St. Christopher's Hospice in London.



Charity Shops

In 2025, Cesta Domů operated three charity shops in Prague. Customers visit not only for publications and stationery but also for designer trinkets from local artists and select secondhand goods donated to the shops. The shops also serve as meeting places and raise awareness about end-of-life care, death, and grief.

Customers interact with Cesta Domů staff and a large group of volunteers who play a significant role in running the shops and staffing booths at events. In 2025, volunteers contributed 5,614 hours of work, equivalent to nearly three full-time positions, representing a 1,500-hour year-over-year increase.

We also offered Cesta Domů's publications and stationery at the Prague Book Fair, the Autumn Book Fair in Havlíčkův Brod, the Knihex Fair, and a number of professional conferences throughout the country.

The store on Žitná Street celebrated its first year of operation with sales of CZK 2.3 million. Customers spent a total of CZK 10.1 mil. at the charity shops. Combined revenue from brick-and-mortar stores, the e-shop, and book distribution reached CZK 13.8 million, which is more than a 25% year-over-year increase.

Ondřej Tesař manages the charity shops. Barbora Janičinová coordinated operations at the Bubenská Street store; Petra Manychová, at the Bělohorská Street store; and Martina Chalupníková, at the Žitná Street store.

The Cesta Domů store on Bubenská Street has beautiful items at good prices, and the staff is very friendly. I like to stop by, chat with them, and usually grab something interesting. I always leave in a good mood.

Communications and Marketing

In 2025, our communications and marketing team systematically raised awareness of Cesta Domů's services and educated the public about hospice and bereavement care. We produced a video campaign dedicated to hospice services and bereavement support. We also filmed a series of video interviews with the artists whose works were auctioned for our charity and with art collectors. In the middle of the year, we unveiled the organization's new visual identity.

Throughout the year, we collaborated regularly with the media. On average, Cesta Domů was featured in print or on the air four times a month. Our experts frequently appeared on Czech Radio broadcasts, Czech Television filmed a report at Cesta Domů, and we contributed to articles in print and online media. These outlets included the weekly Respekt, the magazines Nový Prostor and Tempus Medicorum, Lidové noviny, Katolický týdeník, the Medical Tribune, and the websites Protišedi, Forbes, Řízení školy, and Czechdesign.

The reach of our social media channels also grew. In 2025, Cesta Domů's Facebook and Instagram profiles attracted a total of 2,000 new followers (Facebook: 19,372 users; Instagram: 4,747 followers). On LinkedIn, we had 3,533 followers, and more than 1,400 people subscribed to our YouTube videos. At the end of the year, we partnered with the

influencer Julie Kaletová, who shared information about Cesta Domů's services with her Instagram audience.

Cesta Domů participated in a charity cycling event and the "Eight Days for Palliative Care" awareness campaign. In October, we joined the "Live Out Your Days at Home" campaign, which raises awareness about home hospice work through its "Slippers Day" initiative.

Jaroslav Šimůnek led the Communications and Marketing Department until November 2025.

WEBSITES

Cesta Domů operates several thematically focused websites. The most visited site is Umíráni.cz, an information portal sought out by the public and experts alike. It recorded over 12,000 visits per week in 2025. The organization's main website, CestaDomu.cz, was visited by over 2,200 users per week.

Another website, eVzpomínky.cz, provides a secure online space for preserving memories of the deceased, attracting over 800 visitors per week. Mojesmrt.cz, an interactive website that encourages open reflection on one's own mortality, planning for the end of life, and final farewells, was visited by over 370 people per week.

"DID YOU KNOW THAT..."

The Umíráni.cz portal is Cesta Domů's most-visited website. In 2025, it received 627,000 visits. It offers verified information, practical advice, personal stories, and professional online counseling. The portal was launched in 2005.

PREVIEW OF THE NEW LOGO

The maze becomes a path:



Donors and Funding

In 2025, several thousand donors helped fulfill Cesta Domů's mission. They supported us through regular monthly donations, one-time contributions to fundraisers, support for specific projects, participation in benefit events, and by organizing their own events.

We are delighted to see individual donors taking the initiative more and more often. In 2025, they organized birthday fundraisers for Cesta Domů. The most successful fundraiser raised CZK 237,999. Fundraisers on social media were also successful; the group "Ridgebacks Help" raised CZK 82,117 for us. Donors organized benefit concerts, sporting events, and charity bazaars for Cesta Domů. We also gained several new donors in 2025 who will support us through bequests in their wills.

Employee involvement in specific activities increased among corporate donors. Companies organized employee fundraisers, raffles, charity events, and charity bazaars. There was also growing interest in volunteer days at Cesta Domů and in lectures by our experts at companies. Total proceeds from corporate fundraisers and charity events in 2025 reached CZK 1.9 million. In accordance with the donors' wishes, this support went toward the palliative and supportive care clinic, the inpatient hospice, programs for schools, and internal training for Cesta Domů employees.

During the year, Cesta Domů organized two fundraising campaigns to support its home-based care program and its newly established inpatient hospice. Nearly 500 donors participated in both campaigns, and the organization raised CZK 1.2 million.

A significant portion of our funding came from state and local government sources. Approved subsidies and grants totaled CZK 20.4 million. The ongoing support from certain foundations is particularly valuable to us. This long-term collaboration enables us to plan more effectively and identify growth opportunities.

Throughout the year, we keep our donors informed about the organization's activities, explain how their funds are used, and seek to understand their wishes. We publish a regular newsletter for them called RozCestník. In 2025, we continued inviting them to cultural and social events, including a gathering at Jazz Dock, a discussion at Kunsthalle, a performance at Dejvické Theater, film screenings, and classical music concerts. In September, we opened our doors to donors and the public for an Open House event. In October, we celebrated World Hospice Day with a sold-out concert featuring singer Ondřej Ruml and the Cello Republic quartet. In November, we raised a record-breaking CZK 5.8 million at our traditional art auction. Half of the almost CZK 1.3 million from Štěpán Hon's DOMA photography calendar also went to Cesta Domů. Created in collaboration with personalities photographed in their homes, the calendar has been bringing joy to many households and organizations for many years.

MAJOR PROJECTS

One example of our extensive project support was the EP Group Foundation project. The project's main outcome was nine courses for educators focused on addressing the topic of death in children's education, communicating about loss, and providing support for coping with grief in school settings. The courses provided educators with practical tools and methodological tips and offered them a space to share experiences.

A key partner in our 2025 awareness-raising activities was the UNIQA Endowment Fund at the Pontis Foundation. Thanks to their support, we redesigned the Umírání.cz website and reached more than 2,000 general practitioners throughout the Czech Republic with a targeted campaign.

Helena Štohanzlová is the Finance and Fundraising Manager.

When we started offering home-based palliative care, I met colleagues who told me how wonderful it was that we were doing this. Most of them had direct experience with palliative care and were proud to be part of the initiative. Nothing else we support has ever generated such an internal response. (Monika Laušmanová, vice chair of the board of directors of Stavební spořitelna ČS)



ECONOMY AND FINANCE

Cesta Domů's budget is funded from multiple sources. It receives funding from donations by individuals and corporations, contributions from endowment funds and foundations, subsidies from the state budget, reimbursements from health insurance companies, and proceeds from its own activities and fundraising events.

Cesta Domů's financial performance in 2025

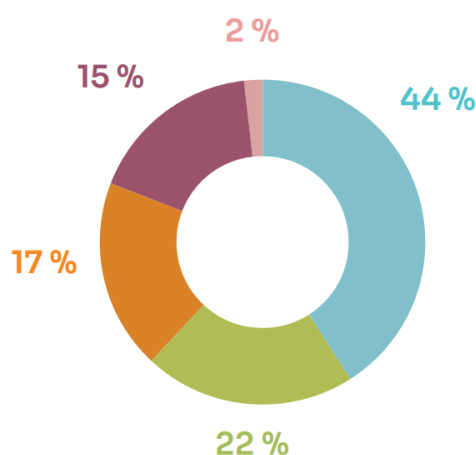
These figures have not yet undergone an annual independent external audit. We regularly publish audit and activity reports on www.cestadomu.cz/dokumenty, and they are filed in the Collection of Documents.

Revenues

Total: CZK 105.8 mil.

Sources of Funding

- Donations
- Government grants
- Own funds
- Health insurance companies
- Other revenue

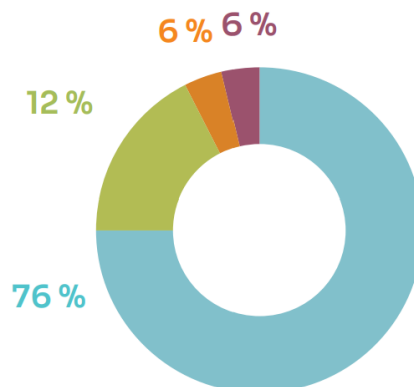


Expenses

Total: CZK 105.8 million

Expenses by Type

- Payroll expenses
- Services
- Other costs
- Materials



Thank you for your support:

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We would also like to thank the law firm **LYNX legal s. r. o.** for its long-term legal support.



People

We have 148 employees, including contract workers, and the full-time equivalent (FTE) headcount was 81 (48 FTEs in direct care services, 13 FTEs in outreach, and 20 FTEs in donor care, administration, and support services).

As 2025 progressed, new leadership and changes emerged across all teams at Cesta Domů. David Kosák became director at the beginning of the year and Markéta Čábelová became editor-in-chief of the publishing house. In February, Kateřina Dočkalová took over as HR manager. Martina Holubová assumed her role as the new direct care services manager in May. The leadership team was strengthened in August 2025 with the addition of Olga Banýrová as training manager and Petr Vlach as the newly created IT manager. Tomáš Uhlíř joined the team in November as Outreach Manager, and Martin Kalvoda was hired as the new Development Project Manager. That same month, Martina Holubová was appointed to lead Cesta Domů and Katarína Vlčková, Head Physician, took over her role as Direct Care Services Manager. Two senior staff members ended their long-standing tenures at Cesta Domů at the end of the year: Martina Tesařová, Head of Respite Services, and Jaroslav Šimůnek, Head of Communications and Marketing.

Kateřina Dočkalová has been Cesta Domů's HR manager since February 2025.



The following individuals worked for Cesta Domů in 2025:

Naděžda Adámková, Tereza Anderssonová, Olga Banýrová, Kateřina Barčíková, Hana Baštová, Vendula Bednářová, Tomáš Blažke, Kristýna Boháčová, Martina Borovková, Kateřina Bransburg, Jiřina Cislerová, Markéta Čábelová, Petra Černá, Jakub Demčo, Ellen Denk, Kateřina Dočkalová, Karolína Douděrová, Veronika Drnková, Pavel Duba, Dagmar Dynybylová, Mahulena Exnerová, Klára Fischerová, Zuzana Francová, Dana Fraňková, Marcela Fredericks, Klára Freundová, Agáta Gába, Romana Giovagnoniová, Alena Hábltová, Oldřich Hanibal, Barbora Henelová, Kateřina Hildebrandová, Markéta Hojná, Martina Holubová, Adam Hora, Adam Houska, Adéla Howesová, Zuzana Hrnčířová, Eliška Hronešová, Nikola Hrůzová, Marek Chalupa, Martina Chalupníková, Václav Chytil, Zdeněk Janál, Zora Jandová, Barbora Janičinová, Jana Janžurová, Johana Jelínková, Klára Jindrová, Simona Káčerková, Anežka Kafková, Pavel Kachlík, Martin Kalvoda, Eva Kaniová, Eva Karlíčková, Andrea Kašíková, Hana Kašpárková, Eva Kašparová, Pavel Klimeš, Marie Klimešová, Anna Kočovská, Gražina Kokešová Kleinová, Marta Kolská, Mlada Komárková, Pavel Koňarik, David Kosák, Emma Kotasová, Michal Kouba, Renáta Koubová, Zuzana Koutná, Anna Kredba Brodská, Darina Kremplová, Anna Krutská, Kateřina Kuklíková, Natálie Kukolová, Hana Kulichová, Lukáš Kutek, Monika Kutilová, Marie Kůtková, Dita Elen Lahournat, Tereza Lepešková, Kateřina Letošníková, Jiří Ležal, Václava Linhartová, Helena Liscová, Alena Lukášová, Jiří Macura, Petra

Manychová, Zuzana Martínková, Petra Mejsnarová, Kateřina Menčíková, Petra Mihalcová, Anna Michálková, Eli Robin Mika, Dagmar Mikolášková, Anna Mikulová, Jiří Navrátil, Barbora Nebáznivá, Lenka Nevařilová, Ivana Nováková, Ludmila Nováková, Markéta Novotná, Elena Novotová, Veronika Onačilová, Magdalena Ondrová, Miroslav Pajovič, Justyna Pařízková, Ráchel Paslerová, Ivana Pičmanová, Ivana Polcarová, Jitka Polišenská, Adéla Procházková, Eva Procházková, Jindřiška Prokopová, Marcela Provazníková, Lucie Pšeničková, Michaela Rambalová, Barbora Rejzková, Petra Rendlová, Kateřina Rieger Konopásková, Štěpánka Ryšavá, Tereza Řezáčová, Kamila Anna Salák Příhodová, Lucie Seidlová, Anna Skořepová, Lenka Smolíková, Dominika Soukupová, Olga Stránská, Lukáš Surý, Markéta Sušánková, Marie Svobodová, Anna Šídová, Jana Šídová, Jaroslav Šimůnek, Kristýna Šimůnková, Štěpánka Škampová, Soňa Škvareninová, Michaela Štěpánová, Helena Štohanzlová, Pavel Šuchman, Michaela Šustová, Jana Švejdová, Markéta Taberyová, Kateřina Termerová, Ondřej Tesař, Julie Tesařová, Martina Tesařová, Žofie Tesařová, Linda Tichotová Fryčová, Raja Tobolková, Jan Tošovský, Kateřina Tulachová, Tomáš Uhlíř, Kateřina Vacková, Andrea Valchářová, Lucie Válková, Eva Van Wagenen, Monika Vaníčková, Kateřina Venclová, Petr Vlach, Katarína Vlčková, Martina Vondrová, Pavla Vopatová, Vladimíra Alžběta Votavová, Eliška Wichová, Debora Zálešáková, Anna Závadová, Bohunka Zbíralová, Martina Zikmundová, Marta Zídková



Partnerships and Memberships

Cesta Domů is a member of the Forum of Mobile Hospices, the Association of Social Service Providers of the Czech Republic, and the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care.

Many of our doctors, nurses, and other staff are members of the Czech Society Palliative Medicine (ČSPM) of the Czech Medical Association of J. E. Purkyně (ČLS JEP). Cesta Domů is also a member of the Coalition for Easy Donations and the Fundraisers' Club of the Czech Fundraising Center. We adhere to the Standards for Mobile Specialized Palliative Care. We also follow our own Code of Ethics and Charter of Patients' Rights. Our care aligns with the international standards of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC), which we have translated and published. Cesta Domů participates in data collection for the KOMPAS project of the Czech Ministry of Health. We collaborate with the Ministry of Health to communicate and implement the Strategy for the Development of Palliative Care in the Czech Republic through 2035. We contribute our practical experience to the methodology currently being developed by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for situations involving serious illness and death in school settings.



Cesta domů Bodies

STATUTORY BODY

MUDr. Martina Holubová – Director since November 10, 2025

David Kosák, MSc. – Director from January 1 to November 7, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2025

Ondřej Krása, Ph.D. – Chair

Tereza Kaucká – Vice Chair

Ing. Jan Žůrek, CSc. – Vice Chair

Mgr. Robert Basch – Member

RNDr. Josef Basík – Member until January 7, 2025

Mgr. Václava Bratinková – Member until January 7, 2025

Prof. RNDr. Milan Kodíček, CSc. – Member until January 7, 2025

MUDr. Michal Kouba – Member

Ing. Martin Málek – member since January 20, 2025

Mgr. Ing. Markéta Pravdová – member

FOUNDERS

MUDr. Ondřej Sláma, Ph.D. – oncologist and palliative care specialist

Ak. mal. Martina Špinková – painter

Alžběta Marková, MAS – nurse

Contact

CESTA DOMŮ, Z.Ú.

info@cestadomu.cz | www.cestadomu.cz | +420 266 712 610 | IČO: 265 28 843
DIČ: CZ 265 28 843

REGISTERED ADDRESS

Office, medical facility, counseling center, respite care services, medical equipment rental, educational center, library: **Heleny Kočvarové 1583/1, 140 00 Praha 4**

CHARITY SHOPS

Bělohorská 1682/74, 169 00 Prague 6
Bubenská 421/3, 170 00 Prague 7
Žitná 608/27, Prague 1

BANK DETAILS

Account number: 2800193970/2010, Fio banka, a. s., V Celnici 1028/10, Prague 1. The variable symbol for one-time donations is 357. Thank you.

WEBSITE

[Cestadomu.cz](https://cestadomu.cz) – information about Cesta Domů and its services

[Cestadomu.cz/eshop](https://cestadomu.cz/eshop) – books and stationery

[Umirani.cz](https://umirani.cz) – an information, discussion, and counseling portal

[Mojesmrt.cz](https://mojesmrt.cz) – an app for expressing your wishes regarding the end of life

[eVzpominky.cz](https://evzpominky.cz) – a virtual memorial site

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/cestadomu | instagram.com/cesta_domu

youtube.com/c/Cestadomů1 | linkedin.com/company/cesta-domu-z-u

soundcloud.com/cestadomu

This informational material is not an official annual report. The annual report, including the financial statements audited by an auditor, is available for download on our website and has been filed with the Collection of Documents.

PUBLISHER, EDITORIAL TEAM

Cesta domů

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Pavel Dvořák, Michal Hančovský, Barbora Henelová, Daniela Dahlien Neumanová, Jan Šilar, Jaroslav Šimůnek

All photographs are authentic and were taken with the consent of the individuals depicted.

Cesta  **domů**