



# Background

DreamCatcher was the culmination of an idea that founder, Caitlin Crommett, had in early 2009 at the age of 16. Having volunteered at her local hospice since she was 12 years old, she wanted to have more direct involvement with patients. She presented her idea for DreamCatcher to her local hospice and completed her first dream in the following 60 days.

Caitlin created a school club around DreamCatcher, and got her friends and fellow students involved. It eventually spread to other high schools in the area.

Caitlin took DreamCatcher with her to the University of Notre Dame where she was offered a scholarship that helped her to expand DreamCatcher nationally. She traveled around the country spreading the DreamCatcher mission to 7 states during the summer of 2012. By the time she graduated in 2015, DreamCatcher had a presence in 15 states nationally. She is continuing to work to grow DreamCatcher into a nationally recognized foundation in order to grant Dreams of hospice patients everywhere.



**Caitlin Crommett - Founder**

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# Putting dreams into action

We are an independent group and operate because of the generosity of our community. We are a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization, so all donations are fully tax deductible.



DreamCatchers1.org

# Who are we?

DreamCatchers serves to fulfill the final Dreams of hospice patients- terminally ill with six months or less to live- through our chapters run by students in high school or college. The students in each community work with their local hospice to make these typically-elderly patients' Dreams come true, fulfilling our secondary mission of bridging generational gaps. These Dreams are experience-based, so typically involve a familiar life activity or 'bucket list' item for the patient.

For example, groups have hosted big family celebrations for birthdays or anniversaries, taken a 100 year old woman on a hot air balloon ride, taken a man suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease on an afternoon sailboat ride, and hosted a lavish "tea party" for a sweet English woman, to name a few.



## The Process

- 1 A family member or caregiver of a hospice patient completes a short one page form explaining the Dream or wish of the patient.
- 2 The local Dream Team goes to work on the Dream, coordinating schedules with all involved. Care needs will be specifically addressed in the planning.
- 3 The day of the Dream will be festive, fun, and full of all the things that make the patient happy.
- 4 Each patient will receive a dreamcatcher as a reminder of our commitment to fulfill their Dream.

# Why the Name?

Native Americans have long known that the night air is filled with both good and bad dreams.

Dreamcatchers have traditionally been hung over or near beds, swinging freely in the air, catching dreams as they pass by. The good dreams know how to pass through the dreamcatcher, slipping through the outer holes and sliding down the soft feathers so gently that many times the sleeping person does not even know he or she is dreaming. The bad dreams get tangled in the dreamcatcher and never see the next light of day.

Founder Caitlin Crommett is part Native American on her father's side, with ancestry tracing to the Penobscot tribe in Maine.



***The mission of DreamCatchers is to connect local young people to their community by forging bonds between hospice patients and high school / college students.***

