

Eli's Hospice Insider

Mergers & Acquisitions: South Carolina Acquisition Powered By Private Equity Firm

Plus: Minnesota hospice buys assisted living facility.

Hospice Care of South Carolina in Spartanburg has acquired **Agape Hospice** for an undisclosed sum, it says in a release. Hospice Care of SC is a portfolio company of **The Vistria Group**, a Chicago-based private investment firm.

Background: Vistria bought Minnesota-based regional chain **St. Croix Hospice** from Stamford, Connecticut-based private equity firm **Clearview Capital** in 2017. St. Croix has been opening new locations and bought **Hometown Hospice & Homecare** headquartered in Brookfield, Wisconsin, last year. Vistria bought Hospice of SC in November 2019.

Last month, St. Croix said it had 31 locations in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin, serving 2,000 patients a day across 220+ counties. Hospice Care of SC says the combined organization is largest hospice provider in the state, with 32 branches that cover all 46 counties in South Carolina, 800+ employees, and more than 1,400 patients.

Hospice of SC and Agape don't plan to change their names "in the near term," the company says in the release.

Other recent deals around the country include:

In Minnesota: Prairie Home Hospice & Community Care in Marshall has signed an agreement to acquire **Fieldcrest Assisted Living** in Cottonwood, Prairie Home says in a release. Nonprofit Prairie Home will be able to furnish hospice services to Fieldcrest residents, it notes.

In Massachusetts: Brockton Visiting Nurse Association is expanding its hospice program, it says on its website. The 114-year-old VNA launched its hospice business line last year and now is accepting outside referrals for the program, reports The Enterprise newspaper.

In Oklahoma: Accentra Home Healthcare in Oklahoma has merged with **Hometown Home Health** and **Sooner Hospice**. The newly merged agency with locations in Edmond and Tulsa is named **Accentra Home Health & Hospice**, the company says on its website.