Community Hospice was named a 2017 Hospice Honors Recipient by Deyta Analytics, a division of HEALTHCAREfirst. This prestigious award recognizes hospices across the country as those providing the highest level of quality care, as measured from the patient caregiver’s point of view.

Award criteria was based on Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey results including patient caregivers level of satisfaction on services, education and treatment received by the patient, satisfaction of being treated with respect and dignity, and also the willingness of the caregiver to recommend Community Hospice services.

Norm Mast, President/CEO credits the “excellent quality of care provided by our staff and volunteers to patients and families has qualified us as a Hospice Honors recipient. It is humbling to know that our community values and appreciate the care that we provide.” He shared “It’s about quality and honoring and respecting those we serve. It’s what people at end-of–life deserve.”

Community Hospice is very grateful for the many ways the community supports our organization. Community Hospice has always strived to make a difference in our communities and in the lives of those we have the honor of serving.

The peaceful, homelike setting of our Truman House inpatient facility allows families to spend quality time with each other, while professional clinical staff focus on your loved one’s well-being and comfort. Those served in the Truman House come from within our service area of Tuscarawas, Stark, Carroll, Coshocton, Harrison, Holmes and Columbiana Counties.

Construction of the Truman House was completed in 2012, with an overall cost of $9.3 million. A loan of $5.7 million was secured from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with a monthly payment of $28,000. Great strides have been made in reducing our mortgage by raising funds and being good stewards of those funds. In 2015, our mortgage was $5.1 million, and now our current balance is $2.85 million.

In 2018, Community Hospice will launch a 5-year mortgage retirement plan. Our goal will be to make an additional payment of $300,000 on the mortgage each year. With your help, we can be successful in making our final loan payment in 2022!

Please consider giving today! Your gift will ensure the legacy of Community Hospice will continue to be here for those who need it. Enclosed in this newsletter is a donation envelope should you choose to support our efforts. Any donation, of any size will put us one step closer to reaching our goals. Thank you for your support.
In Touch Newsletter

February 2018

Executive Corner
By Norm Mast, President/CEO

If you have lived in northeast Ohio for any amount of time, I am sure that you have heard the phrase “If you don’t like the weather in Ohio wait 5 minutes and it will change!” One day it’s snowing and the next day it’s 60 degrees. That is similar to what Community Hospice has experienced over the last several years. There are so many challenges and changes facing our healthcare system these days, we really do not know what to expect next. But one thing I have learned, if you don’t know how to adapt and face the changes head on, you will never survive.

Each year our leadership team reflects on the past year we say “Ok, next year we need to just remain status quo, no new projects!” And then the year begins, the team looks at our strategic plan and we start looking at ways to make things better – for our patients, their families and our staff. The changes we make are not made just for the sake of change; they are made with one goal in mind – to make us a better, stronger and enduring organization.

This past year we looked at our Vision Statement to ensure it is still relevant. A Vision Statement is defined as "An aspirational description of what an organization would like to achieve or accomplish in the long-term future.” It is intended to serve as a clear guide for choosing current and future courses of action.” So what did we choose as our new Vision Statement? We wanted to be – An Enduring Legacy of Care, Service and Compassion. “Enduring Legacy” – We all agreed were vital for our organization. Enduring means “lasting, continuing or durable” and Legacy is about life and living. It's about learning from the past, living in the present, and building for the future. And we can’t be an Enduring Legacy without the Care, Service and Compassion! It’s those three building blocks that will make or break our organization. If we focus on being successful in those areas, both with our patients and staff – Community Hospice will be an Enduring Legacy!

So, as we enter a new Season of Change – we want to learn from our past, live in the present and build for our future!

The Starfish Philosophy from a Volunteer’s Perspective
By Gayle Mack, Community Hospice Volunteer

As volunteers, many of us have had lives full of responsibilities, whether it be with jobs or families. At times we may have taken on too much and felt overloaded. Somehow we learned to juggle and manage. Always busy, there were so many expectations and people to keep happy!

Now, we enter the realm of volunteerism at Community Hospice where we see the whirlwind begin and end for many people. Caregivers and families are very involved in crisis mode. Employees run and work and strive to provide comfort and peace.

But as a volunteer, my experience has been one of wait and see. What can I do? There is a shift from being in the center of the frenzied business at hand, to stepping aside, yet still making oneself available. Patience, and unhurried thoughtfulness are new priorities and new qualities to consider. The frustration that comes from not knowing if you are doing enough, reminded me of the Starfish story: An older man walking at the beach was observing a young boy along the shore, stooping over and throwing something into the sea. It seemed that hundreds of starfish had been washed up out of the ocean. The older man knew they would not survive long and he felt saddened by the desperate state of affairs. When he reached the boy, he asks him what he is doing and the boy tells him that all these starfish have been washed ashore and he knows they will die so he is throwing them back in. The older man sees the monumental task and knows they can’t all be saved. He asks the boy, “How can you make a difference with a problem as big as this?” As the young boy determinedly tossed one of the starfish back into the water, he replied, “Well, I made a difference to that one.”

Obviously, we can’t help everyone, but if we made positive contact with even one person, we can make a difference. It’s not the quantity when it comes to kindness shown but the quality, and the heart intent.

Remember the Starfish Philosophy - one fish, one day at a time!
Veterans Memorial Project

Veterans and the honoring of their service is an important element of Community Hospice. We are privileged to provide veteran visibility in our facility, and “pinning” each veteran who comes into our care. As an extension of these efforts, we plan to create a public veterans memorial as an outdoor feature of the Truman House, to honor all veterans and their families.

The memorial will include a 25 ft. flag pole in a raised ornamental area, monoliths honoring each branch of the service, a monolith honoring POWs and MIAs, and a monolith honoring service families. We have engaged local veterans for input to provide meaning and authenticity to this memorial. The project will cost $50,000. We have received local grant funding, and generous support from local veterans’ groups, and the communities in the areas we serve. It will be our privilege to honor a loved one by reciting their name at a special dedication ceremony planned for late Spring 2018.

For more information, or to support the Veterans Memorial Project, contact Sheila Hurley, Major Gifts Officer, at 1-800-947-7284.

“You’re Not Alone” Youth Camp

At Community Hospice, focused care extends beyond our patients to their families – including the children. The 2017 “You’re Not Alone” summer camp is an example of the supportive care offered by our staff and volunteers. The four-day camp was held in July at Camp Wanake in Beach City for youth ages 7 to 17.

This unique camp site allows for swimming, canoeing, rock climbing, hiking, crafts, music, large group games, and reflective moments outdoors. Children are divided into age appropriate activity groups. The camp is under the direction of Anissa Fuller, LISW-S, Bereavement Care Manager, with additional assistance provided by Community Hospice staff and volunteers. If you know of a youth that could benefit from this experience, please contact Keslie Gunnoe, Bereavement Care Coordinator at (800) 947-7284 or email bereavement@myhospice.org for more information.

Upcoming Events & Updates

Annual Rigatoni Dinner

If it’s February, it’s cold. But if it’s February, there is somewhere to get out of the house and go! The Annual Rigatoni Dinner will once again be held at Central Catholic High School on Saturday, February 24 from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. Cyl Krocker and her committee of “meat ball rollers” will be ready to serve a meal that includes pasta, meatballs or sausage, salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Come early as last year’s event attracted over 900 guests. With the support of the community over $9,400.00 was generated for patient care. Tickets are available at Community Hospice Truman House, Dover Browse & Buy, or at the door on the day of the event.

Treasures of Time

This annual event will be held Saturday, March 17, 2018 from 5:00 to 8:30 pm at Great Trail Golf Course in Minerva, Ohio. This fun-filled evening will include a plated Strip Steak or Stuffed Chicken Dinner, a live and silent auction and entertainment provided by Illusionist Tim Angeloni. Tickets are available at The Carroll County Hospice Office and Browse & Buy, as well as at The Truman House in New Philadelphia. Please call (330) 627-4796 or (330) 343-7605 for further information.

Culinary Capers

An exciting location change has taken place this year for the annual Culinary Capers. This year, the event will be hosted at Columbia Woodlands, located at 6608 Rieger Drive NW in Dover and will be held on April 28, 2018 starting at 6:00 pm. This popular event will feature innovative appetizers, entrees, and desserts. The very best chefs in our area Participate, and it keeps us all coming back every year. In 2017, this event raised over $70,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales and auctions items. Tickets will go on sale in early March. Act quickly as there are only 200 seats available. Call (330) 343-7605 for more information.
The Gift of Laughter
Anne and her niece BJ shared a true love for life. After moving back to Ohio, BJ and Anne grew very close and shared many great adventures including memorable trips to West Virginia enjoying the casino and the beautiful scenery. Anne had a love for dancing, especially the Jitter bug, watching birds and thunderstorms, flowers, playing cards and slot machines.

At first Anne and BJ were nervous about contacting Community Hospice for services, but it didn’t take long for them to find comfort in the support provided to them. They regained hope that even though Anne’s health was declining, that she could still enjoy life to its fullest. BJ shared that Anne was also a caregiver to her husband and the assistance we were able to provided allowed her to continue to meet the needs of both the people she loved.

The Hospice Team wanted to do something special for Anne and BJ, so they enjoyed a euchre party provided by the Betty’s Gift Fund. BJ stated that her aunt was so excited and truly enjoyed Geri Newell, Volunteer, Jill Albaugh, RN and Heidi Nelson, Aide spending time with her. They enjoyed a delicious lunch and conversation with many laughs, but then it got serious, as the two teams paired up and started playing euchre. Jill and her partner Geri turned out to be tough to beat, but Anne and BJ didn't give up. There was much joking and laughter during the games. At the end of the party, Anne said we were all welcome back as long as we would play euchre. After Anne's passing, BJ stated that "hospice is for the living and not the dead and you guys gave her an extra year of her life. My whole family thanks you all."

The Hospice Heart is in the Details
Our mission is not only to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our patients, but to also provide support, comfort and hope to the patients’ families and loved ones. This compassion and care is provided by our staff and our dedicated team of volunteers all in support of fulfilling our mission, which is “to honor life by providing Peace, Hope and Compassion to those we serve.”

Volunteers provide support by working directly with patients providing companionship, journaling, art projects, serving on committees, at fundraising events and much more!

Over the years, volunteers have shared that volunteering has given them purpose and joy knowing they are using their time and talents to help patients, families and our staff.

To learn more about volunteering please call us at 1-800-947-7284.
Bridge to Healing: Community Center for Grief, Loss & Hope
Managing grief can be overwhelming. Support Group and/or Social Activity participants will be able to identify and learn how to help manage the mixed and painful emotions and learn self-care strategies. Programs could be added or changed, depending on community interest and/or inclement weather. Please call Kelsie at 1-800-947-7284 to RSVP or for more information.

Social Activities

**Carroll County Breakfast**
2nd Tuesday of Every Month at 9:00 am
Carroll County Airport Restaurant in Carrollton
Call Nina Jean at 330-679-2481 to RSVP

**Tuscarawas Out to Lunch Bunch**
2nd Wednesday of Every Month - 12:00 pm
Location Changes Monthly
Call Norma at 330-339-9283 for More Information

**The Crazy Messies**
2nd Thursday of Every Month - 10:00 am
The Friendship Center in Carrollton
Call Patti at 330-204-6860 to RSVP

**Hit the Deck: A Card Group**
3rd Thursday of Every Month - 6:30 pm
Geib Family Center in Dover
Call Jean at 330-339-6047 for More Information

**Men’s Breakfast**
4th Thursday of Every Month - 8:30 am
Dee’s Family Restaurant in New Philadelphia
Call Ray at 330-343-4259 for More Information

**Sharing & Caring Women’s Social Hour**
1st and 3rd Tuesday of Every Month
Time and Location Changes Monthly
Call Cathy at 440-439-6417 for More Information

**Coping with Colors**
2nd Thursday of Every Month - 2:00 pm
Coshocton Springs in Coshocton
Call Sarah at 740-575-4326 to RSVP

**Crafts with Verna**
2nd and 4th Monday of Every Month
Community Hospice Coshocton Office
Call Verna at 910-389-4938 to RSVP

Loss of a Spouse: For Women
When your spouse dies, you are suddenly thrown into a life that has totally changed. Come together with others who understand the many feelings and fears associated with the loss of a spouse. Sharing your thought or just listening in a supportive group setting can provide comfort as you mourn the death of your loved one. You must RSVP to attend this group.

Counseling & Support
Community Hospice offers individual in-person counseling, support groups and telephone support. If you would like information on our program services, please contact the Bereavement Team at 1-800-947-7284 or email at bereavement@myhospice.org.

“Younger Widows” Group
Younger widows may navigate grief differently and find comfort in expressing their feelings with someone of similar age. This group is open to widows who have lost a husband or significant other while in their twenties, thirties or forties.

“Hope & Healing” Support Group
These groups help provide education about the grief process and allow for the expression of various thoughts and feelings. Join us as we explore healthy coping strategies, create the opportunity to share how loss affects our lives and meet others who are surviving loss.

“Support Groups can be a vital part of grief recovery. So often we feel alone in our pain. To connect with others in the same situation is like finding a harbor in the midst of the storm.” - Rachel Lengel, Uniontown
Calendar of Events 2018

For more information on our upcoming events, check out our Facebook page or visit our website at www.MyHospice.org!

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<td>March 17</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
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