Community Hospice Named 2018 Hospice Honors Recipient

Community Hospice has been named a 2018 Hospice Honors recipient by HEALTHCAREfirst, the leading provider of Web-based home health and hospice software. Hospice Honors is a prestigious program that recognizes hospices providing the highest level of quality as measured from the caregiver’s point of view.

“We are excited to recognize the 2018 Hospice Honors recipients for their hard work and dedication to providing exceptional care,” said J. Kevin Porter of HEALTHCAREfirst. “I congratulate Community Hospice on its success in achieving this highest of honors.”

Award criteria were based on Hospice CAHPS survey results for an evaluation period of October 2016 through September 2017. Award recipients were identified by evaluating performance on a set of 24 quality indicator measures. Performance scores were aggregated from all completed surveys and were compared on a question-by-question basis to a National Performance Score calculated from all partnering hospices contained in the HEALTHCAREfirst’s Hospice CAHPS database. Hospice Honors recipients include those hospices scoring above the HEALTHCAREfirst National Performance Score on 20 of the evaluated questions.

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

TuscBDD and Community Hospice Partner to Build Walking and Bereavement Path

The Tuscarawas County Board of Developmental Disabilities (TuscBDD) and Community Hospice are happy to announce the opening of the newly built walking path that connects the two campuses. TuscBDD and Community Hospice are neighboring organizations on New Philadelphia’s south side, which both provide support and services to many residents of Tuscarawas County.

The organizations are surrounded by lush, green woods that were virtually inaccessible before the construction of the walking/bereavement path. The beautifully landscaped path is a quiet place where people can access walking and sitting areas that offer a quiet retreat for calming moments.
Over the past year, plans were drawn and the path was constructed so that people being supported, staff from both organizations, and people from neighboring businesses could utilize the space for a place of comfort and respite as well as exercise. “Often times the people that we support need a place to take a break from grieving, and taking a walk seems to help quite a bit,” expressed Community Hospice Facility Care Manager, Mark Mckenzie. “The new path is perfect for people that want to get outside for fresh air and find a little bit of peace.”

TuscBDD has specific programs that encourage staff and community members to get active through walking and fitness. TuscBDD offers staff members a holistic wellness program that outlines monthly fitness challenges, which include activities that range from walking and strength training to yoga and meditation. Additionally, TuscBDD is a sponsor of the OSU Extension Fit Youth Initiative’s annual community summer walking program, which encourages all people in the community to increase their daily walking. “This is a great addition for our staff members and for the people that we support as well,” shared TuscBDD Superintendent, Nate Kamban. “It is really nice for the neighboring provider agencies because they can now take people that they support on a relaxing nature walk throughout the day without having to utilize transportation.” Community Hospice Truman House is a state-of-the-art care setting, designed specifically to promote comfort, family, and peace. A place where everyone is committed to supporting the patient physically, emotionally and spiritually anytime is visiting time. The grounds at Truman House include many tranquil, serene areas such as a beautiful enclosed courtyard, relaxing water fountains, outdoor gardens and meandering walk ways. This new addition will provide yet another opportunity for patients and families to come together, enjoy the outdoors and soak in nature’s beauty.

Both TuscBDD and Community Hospice are satisfied with the finished project and are happy to see it being used. The organizations are always looking for ways to partner with other local agencies and are happy to stand together on a project that is beneficial to many people in the community.

I recently watched a news clip about a 10-year-old boy in Iowa who was colorblind. The boy was given a special pair of glasses, an optical assistive device, that opened the world of color up to him for the first time. As he put on the glasses, true joy showed on his face. He would have lived the rest of his life in a world of vague, dull tones without these special glasses.

When an individual is faced with illness or depression, the world can feel like that. It is nondescript gray, one day after another. You know there are still colors out there, but your world is colorblind.

Then one day, someone offers an opportunity to change your view. They are not promising that you will see as you did before, but they are offering you a glimpse of a brighter day in some way. As with the special optical glasses, the young boy’s colorblindness was not cured, but while he wore them, the world was richer and fuller and more beautiful.

Hospice volunteers can contrast that one dimensional grayness by: honoring a veteran with the red, white and blue; delivering a bright yellow flower to a dark room; serving a plate of red rigatoni; offering colored pens to write a remembrance on a stone; pulling a blue comforter up to a chin. Whether it is opening a shade to view a sunset, a visit, a prayer, a salute, a smile, giving smooth cold ice cream: all are given as a gesture of adding color and texture to someone else’s life.

In the segment about the young boy, there was an emotional moment when the 10-year-old falls onto his father’s shoulder crying. Perhaps one might wonder that he could surely get along without the optical glasses, that he should be glad he could see at all. But the addition of color mattered greatly to that one boy and it mattered to his family. After seeing his first sunrise, he now looks forward to rainbows. That is what we as volunteers endeavor to do. We want to express that it matters that you live in color and that your soul is nurtured. As long as you have breath, you are alive. We want to take the time to share a glimpse of color. It matters to that one patient and it matters to their family.
“You’re Not Alone” Youth Camp

The death of a loved one is often one of the most difficult experiences for a person. However, this experience can be even more devastating for youth. Often, there are not many opportunities for youth to share their feelings with others about their grieving experience. The “You’re Not Alone” Youth Camp focuses on providing a safe, welcoming and inviting time for youth to gain confidence, build social skills and express themselves. All youth who want to participate in camp are assessed by a bereavement care staff member to help build rapport, gain a unique understanding of the youth’s needs and provide the best possible support plan for a positive camp experience.

“You’re Not Alone” Youth Camp will be held July 9 through 12, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm for youth ages 7 to 17 who have experienced loss in recent years. The camp is returning to Camp Wanake in Beach City, Ohio which has a long history of providing community and camp experiences for youth, adults and families. This unique camp site will allow for team-building activities, swimming, canoeing, rock climbing, hiking, water games, arts/crafts, music, large group games, and reflective moments outdoors. Youth will be divided into age appropriate activity groups. The camp is under the direction of Anissa Fuller, LISW-S, Bereavement Care Manager, who will be assisted by many Community Hospice staff and volunteers. All camp leadership have training and background directly focused on assisting youth to enjoy the outdoors while working through some of the challenges a loss in their life presents. A special feature of the camp will be a family evening on Thursday, July 12 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Family evening activities will include a meal, wagon ride, face painting, art displays, music and a special memorial celebration. There is also a special half day horse experience on Friday, June 8 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The camp and horse experiences are offered free of charge thanks to the generous support of Community Hospice donors and a special grant from The Summertime Kids Program of The Stark Community Foundation. Application packets and more information can be obtained by contacting Kelsie Gunnoe, Bereavement Care Coordinator at (800) 947-7284 or email bereavement@myhospice.org. Spots are limited for all activities.

Upcoming Events & Updates

GIANT Garage Sale

Donations to the annual Community Hospice Garage sale will be sought during the month of July, and items can be dropped off at the Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds from July 17th through July 28th. During that time period items will be accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, and on Saturdays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The hours of the sale at the Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds are August 2nd (Preview Night - $5.00 Admission) from 3:00 to 8:00 pm, August 3rd from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm and August 4th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Taste of Heaven

Join us for a fun-filled evening at La Pizzaria, located at 3656 Dressler Rd NW in Canton. Guests will enjoy a delicious buffet-style meal, refreshments and decadent dessert creations from some of our area’s finest purveyors. In addition to fantastic food, the evening will also include casino style games and prizes, a live auction and cash bar. Proceeds from this event benefit Community Hospice patient care.

Tickets: $50 or Table of 8 for $360
Deadline for Table Purchase is August 1st

Golf Classic

Join us for one of Tuscarawas County’s top events, the 23rd Annual Community Hospice Golf Classic. The day will be filled with golf, food, contests and celebration for all those who attend. The day will begin with lunch on the patio, followed by a round of golf with mini games, followed by a catered reception with prizes and a live auction. We encourage you to take the afternoon off and join us on the amazing course at Union Country Club.

Please Note: We can only accept the first 34 teams to register, so secure your spot today!
To register or for more information, please contact Mona Sayre at 330-343-7605 or via email at msayre@myhospice.org.
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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