Stronger Together
By Norm Mast, President/CEO

After an extensive search process, Health Services of Coshocton County (HSCC) transitioned hospice services to Community Hospice effective December 1, 2016. I am not sure that two organizations align better in terms of values, culture, mission and commitment to the communities we serve. With over 60 years of combined care delivery and experience, our organizations offer more resources to provide care to our patients and their families. We believe our collaboration will help us continue to grow and protect jobs by advancing quality and access to end-of-life care to more patients and families in East Central Ohio.

Together we fulfill a unique role by providing mission-driven, community-based care. Our care includes best practices and is the best available in our respective communities. By leveraging our strengths, we are ensuring the long-term success of the shared mission of serving more patients and their families. Additionally, local staff will focus on specific community needs and desired services. Our organizations set the standard for end-of-life care in East Central Ohio. This shared expertise and commitment to quality are evident, in part, by the sheer number of resources devoted to patient care, not to making a profit. The agreement will allow each of the organizations to take advantage of economies of scale while capitalizing on the strengths of each. Hospice Services will be provided under the name of Community Hospice of Coshocton County with the local office remaining at 230 S. 4th St. in Coshocton.

Throughout the process of merging the two organizations, the focus has been on providing a seamless transition for staff, volunteers and more importantly the patients and families we serve. Community Hospice also welcomes two current Health Services board members to the Hospice of Tuscarawas County, Inc. Board of Trustees.

We are two “like-minded” mission driven organizations that believe in providing quality end-of-life care to the communities we serve. We believe that together we are stronger. We are honored that they have chosen to join our organization to assure that the mission of providing quality end-of-life hospice services continues in Coshocton County. Hospice of Coshocton provides our organization with experienced staff, respect from the community, longevity, expanded territory and additional resources. With the consolidation of mission support services, the merger provides the needed resources to continue and strengthen the mission of Community Hospice and Hospice in Coshocton County.
Community Hospice from Down Under; A Maintenance Man’s Perspective

By Mark McKenzie, Facility Manager

My duties here at the Truman House give me a unique opportunity to come into contact with every aspect of the care we provide our patients and families; from Medical Records and Accounting, to Nurses and Aides, and everything in between.

In addressing the various maintenance needs of our organization, I am active in our greater community seeking pieces, parts and a variety of services that allow us to function smoothly and provide the best care possible. The beauty of my engagement with our greater community is that I am in perpetual contact with individuals whose families we have served. It really doesn’t matter where I go - be it the grocery, the dry cleaners, restaurant supply or a local contractor because I wear my Community Hospice t-shirt everywhere I go, it is easy for people to identify my connection to our service. As a result I have the honor and pleasure to hear stories and continuous expressions of gratitude pertaining to the quality of care their loved ones received from our staff. As I leave these intimate conversations, I always step a little lighter knowing that I get to be part of an organization that touches people at the level of their soul! They become a part of us and we become a part of them in unspoken ways that changes all of our lives, forever!

One of the beautiful things that takes place in this unspoken world is the small gifts of gratitude that cycle back to Community Hospice in the most humble of ways. Like several tons of rocks delivered and donated for our Rock Remembrance Garden; a Vita Mix blender for making staff and families smoothies; contractor services that go un-billed; student labor to help spread the 40 yards of mulch needed to keep our landscape looking sharp; donated turkeys during holiday season; donuts; meals; you name it. None of this we ask for! Anyone who enters the world of Hospice Care, from volunteers to staff, becomes a steward of these sacred relationships. We all carry loads here at Community Hospice that at times can feel overwhelming. The beauty of this commitment to carry the load that is necessary, at times difficult and exhausting, is that we have all been a part of honoring the sacred. As a result, we perpetuate a stream of unspoken gratitude that circulates in our community, that stimulates acts of kindness and compassion which gives all of our lives meaning. What a gift!

Cascade Capital 2016 Business Growth Awards

Community Hospice is honored to be a recipient of the Greatest Employee Growth in a Service Category Award and also an overall honor as a Cascade Capital Corporation Business Growth Awards Honoree. Awards were presented at the John S. Knight Center on October 4. Over the last five years, Community Hospice employment increased from 88 employees to 152 at the end of 2015. The Cascade Capital Business Growth Awards honor businesses from Summit, Medina, Stark, Portage, Wayne, Ashland and Holmes counties that have achieved significant growth in sales or employment.

The Gift of Volunteering

By Jan Miller, Volunteer Manager

Community Hospice volunteers are critical to our Organization; help no matter the season or the request. They assist in the finance office, sit with patients, work at fundraisers and much, much more. We are blessed to have individuals who match their talents to our needs. But did you know that by providing these services volunteers save the organization over $500,000 annually.

We want to thank Community Hospice Volunteers for all of the hours you share with patients, families and staff. We couldn’t do it without you. If you aren’t already, please consider being a Community Hospice Volunteer.

The following is a poem by Nancy Felean. She is a wife, mother, grandmother, retired nurse, Community Hospice volunteer and a published poet.

Who has a heart as big as the sky?
Who’s ready to help without asking why?
Who shows compassion, often sheds a tear?
It’s no one else than a hospice volunteer.
Giving the hours that they can afford.
Receiving thank you as their reward.
Knowing they’ve helped in a special way.
Gives peace and joy at the end of the day.
Major Donor Recognition Reception

In September, Community Hospice was host to an inaugural Major Donor Recognition Reception at the Hospice House in New Philadelphia, honoring major donors as well as planned giving and endowment donors.

As part of this event, Community Hospice shared the story of Velma Truman, a long-time hospice volunteer who gave not only her time as a volunteer, but also in her will designated a major gift of $1.5 million to benefit the organization. It is in honor of her overwhelming generosity that our building has been renamed the Community Hospice Truman House.

This new name and future signage was unveiled to more than 50 guests at the event. Norm Mast, CEO of Community Hospice, said, “Community Hospice is humbled and honored to have received this gift from Velma Truman. We are so grateful for the continued support that the community has shown us through the gift of time and donations over the past 30 years.” The gift has been applied to the building’s mortgage, reducing it to $3.5 million.

Tim Larkin, a cousin of Velma Truman, introduced several family members, and provided a beautiful speech highlighting Velma Truman’s commitment to her volunteer experience and to Community Hospice. Matthew Ridgway, and his staff from Hennis Care Centre, provided the food for the event.

Veterans Memorial Project

Veterans and the honoring of them is an important element of Community Hospice. We are privileged to honor veterans by having 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 cost of the project will be $50,000. Our intention will be to see grant funding and we hope for generous support from local veterans’ groups and the communities in the areas we serve.

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

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 Community Hospice Rigatoni Dinner will once again be held at Central Catholic High School on Saturday, February 25th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cyler 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, Tuscarawas Browse & Buy, or at the door on the day of the event.

Treasures of Time

This annual event has been moved due to the closure of Atwood Lodge. The new venue will be Great Trail Golf Club in Minerva. With the new venue, comes an opportunity for a new experience. The event will continue to feature a live and silent auction, but this year will include a plated dinner along with a dinner show. This promises to be a wonderful evening out and will take place on March 11th, 2017 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets are available at The Carroll County Hospice Office and Browse & Buy, as well as at The Truman House, formerly Hospice House, in New Philadelphia. Call (330) 627-4796 or (330) 343-7605 for further information.

Culinary Capers

By April everyone is looking forward to warmer days and great food. Culinary Capers returns to Union Country Club in Dover on April 29th, 2017. As in previous years the event will feature appetizers, main course, and desserts. The very best chefs in our area participate and it keeps us all coming back every year. Last year our ticket sales, auctions and sponsors raised over $70,000.00 through Culinary Capers. Tickets will go on sale in early March. Act quickly as there are only 200 seats available. Call (330) 343-7605 for more information.
Learning Lab

Community Hospice recognizes that excellent hospice education has multi-dimensional benefits impacting the care of terminally ill individuals.

Providing excellent training for hospice staff and volunteers results in the best experience for patients and families by reducing anxiety and suffering, improving comfort for patients and empowering families and caregivers with increased confidence to successfully provide end-of-life support and care.

For this reason, Community Hospice has established a learning lab that can offer specialized training in best practices for end-of-life care which will translate into the best possible experience for patients and families served by Community Hospice. The learning lab, which is located in our Stark County office, is equipped with computers, audiovisual equipment, medical equipment and other training materials that have been funded by donations and grants from the Austin Bailey Foundation and the Rosenberry Foundation. Already the lab has been utilized for volunteer training, CPR training and a clinical skills fair.

Our goal in creating a learning lab is to develop a spectrum of learning opportunities that can address a wide range of learning styles and take into consideration that experiential learning is largely successful with adults. The learning lab will help us build into the curriculum a strong focus on providing continuity in the training of staff and volunteers.

Celebrating 30 Years

How do you pack into one year thirty years worth of memories, recognitions and gratitude? During 2016 we found a variety of ways to celebrate the 30th year of providing end-of-life care to those in need.

-30th Anniversary Celebration
This event was held at the Kent State of Tuscarawas Perfuming Arts Center on July 26th. Over 850 supporters gathered to enjoy a Polynesian Show put on by Island Breeze. This evening included our Anniversary Slide Show, gift and ice cream. Several founding volunteers and staff members were in attendance and were able to reconnect.

-30th Anniversary Slide Show
A twelve minute summary of our history told through pictures and words. This show can now be found on our website at www.MyHospice.org or on our Facebook page.

-Being Mortal Educational Events
We were able to view the documentary “Being Mortal” and provided panels of doctors, nurses, family members and social workers to provide discussion and answer community questions. These panels helped process some very critical questions that came from viewing this excellent documentary and end-of-life issues.

The first thirty years created a history worth retelling. We are looking forward to the next thirty years of providing peace, hope and compassion to an every growing number of patients and families in the communities we are privileged to serve.

An Anniversary To Remember

Special anniversaries are very important milestones for our patients and their families. This held true for Kathryn and her husband Ted, who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in August. Betty’s Gift Fund provided resources for Community Hospice staff to serve the couple a delicious lasagna dinner from Uncle Primo's at New Dawn Health Care. They also received a card, a chocolate cake (Kathryn's favorite) and some lovely roses. The couple enjoyed their meal and shared some stories and photos of their life together. They started dating when Ted was 17 and Kathryn was 15. After 4 years of dating, the couple married. Ted asked Kathryn why she married him and her reasons were “You had good teeth, good hair, good eyes, and you were taller than me.”

This beautiful couple had some wisdom to share as well.
1) Always have goals together
2) Don't get too excited about things
3) Don't go to bed angry at each other

They also have a secret code to say sorry to each other which Kathryn created. Ted shared some of their trials and the scripture they have believed in. Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous! .... He will never leave you nor forsake you."

They have displayed this strength and courage through the years together and know that their God nor each other will never leave them through this journey. This special experience was made possible by the Betty's Gift fund.
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 important self-care strategies. You must RSVP to attend any of these groups. Programs could be added or changed, depending on community interest and/or inclement weather. Please call 1-800-947-7284 for up-to-date information.

**Support Groups**

**Hope & Healing Group - Tuscarawas**
Tuesdays at 10:00 am
Tuscarawas County Senior Center in New Philadelphia
January 3, 17 & 31, February 14 & 28, March 14 & 28

**Hope & Healing Group - Tuscarawas**
Mondays at 5:00 pm
Tuscarawas County Senior Center in New Philadelphia
January 9 & 23 February 6 & 20, March 6 & 20

**Younger Widow’s Group - Tuscarawas**
Mondays at 6:30 pm
The Daily Grind Café in New Philadelphia
January 9, & 23, February 6 & 20, March 6 & 20

**Hope & Healing “Walking” Group - Stark**
Wednesdays at 12:00 pm
Belden Village Mall in Canton
January 4 & 8, February 1 & 15, March 1 & 15

**Grieving in the Midst of Life - Stark**
Wednesday at 5:00 pm
Community Hospice Stark Office
January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22, March 8 & 22

**Hope & Healing Group - Columbiana**
Thursdays at 10:30 am
Community Hospice Columbiana Office
January 5 & 19, February 2 & 16, March 2, 16 & 5 30

**Hope & Healing Group - Columbiana**
Thursdays at 1:00 pm
Community Hospice Columbiana Office
January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23, March 9 & 23

**Hope & Healing Group - Coshocton**
Fridays at 11:00 am
Community Hospice Coshocton County Office
January 13 & 27, February 10 & 24, March 10 & 24

**Coping with Crochet - Coshocton**
Mondays at 4:30 pm
Community Hospice Coshocton Office
January 2 & 16, February 6 & 20, March 6 & 20

**Social Activities**

**Carroll County Breakfast**
2nd Carroll County 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

**Hope & Healing Luncheon**
2nd and 4th Friday of Every Month - 12:30 pm
The English Ivy in Coshocton
Call Mary at 740-622-7311 to RSVP
## Calendar of Events 2017

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

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### Board of Trustees

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