I n T ouch N ewsletter

February 2016

Thank You for Celebrating Life with Us!

Community Hospice is pleased to announce the celebration of 30 years of service to patients and families in need of hospice care. Community Hospice (previously Hospice of Tuscarawas County, Inc.) started in 1986 due to the passion and drive of a group of local health care professionals and volunteers who saw a need for end-of-life care in the area.

Community support has enabled us to expand our services beyond Tuscarawas County, to include Stark, Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Harrison and surrounding counties. To date we have had the honor of serving over 14,000 patients and families in our hospice, palliative and bereavement care programs.

We have benefited from on-going, working relationships with physicians in all of our services areas and contracts with approximately 76 facilities, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals.

Community Hospice now has 4 office locations, is blessed with over 150 employees and over 500 volunteers. These individuals carry out our mission on a daily basis by assisting with direct patient care, performing administrative tasks, working fundraising events and giving of their time at our Browse & Buy stores.

We plan to celebrate our 30th anniversary with a variety of events and special activities throughout the year; so keep a look out for more information! Thanks for the many blessings of support we receive from the communities we serve!

We look forward to another 30 years of carrying out our mission, which is “To honor life by providing peace, hope and compassion to those we serve.”

Honoring Veterans

One of the great privileges we have at Community Hospice is honoring the men and women who have given of time and energy to serve our country. One of the questions we always ask of veterans who come into our care is where did they serve, what are their recollections of their time in service, and would they be willing to allow us the honor of “pinning” them. A pinning is a very simple ceremony orchestrated by our volunteer coordinators and patient/family liaison. We are fortunate to have a number of retired veterans as a part of our volunteer team who are always anxious to honor a fellow veteran. This ceremony includes recognizing the veteran, presenting them a flag (often one that has flown over a veteran’s grave on Memorial Day), letters of commendation from our state and federal lawmakers, and presenting a pin of honor.

The reaction of the veteran being honored is most often one of gratitude. Many are appreciative adding that this may be the first formal thanks they have received for serving their country. Regardless of their state of decline (physically or mentally) a salute from a fellow colleague has great meaning and always gets a response.

Veteran pinning’s are conducted wherever the patient may be, this could be in their home, a nursing home, Hospice House or the hospital. During the month of November, our Veterans Coordinator (Pixie Furbee) organized 14 formal pinning’s which resulted in over 450 veterans being pinned. Community Hospice has been recognized as a partner level two participant in the National “We Honor Veterans” Program.
Executive Corner: A Word from Norm

By: Norm Mast, Executive Director/President

Hope Flows Through Us

HOPE. It’s a word that often has a negative meaning when associated with Hospice. Most people you talk with will say that when you sign up with Hospice you are “giving up hope”. I would like to propose that just the opposite is true. Hospice is not about “giving up hope”, but restoring it and helping people revise what they may hope for. Community Hospice focuses on maximizing the quality of life based on the individual’s choices, so that the person may live life as fully as possible for as long as possible.

Hospice helps patients reclaim the spirit of life. It helps them understand that even though death can lead to sadness, anger, and pain, it can also lead to opportunities for reminiscence, laughter, reunion, and hope. Community Hospice helps those we serve to continue to hope and plan each day for optimal quality of life. Hope can be found from helping our patients and families achieve the highest possible level of physical comfort and peace of mind.

Ultimately, hope means different things to different people, and the compassionate staff of Community Hospice will be there for you on your journey ... to live out whatever hope means to you. Hospice patients never give up, nor do our staff and families give up. Care focuses on hope: hope to be pain free, hope to sit on the porch, hope to see your grandchild’s wedding or hope to celebrate your anniversary. We always hope for a cure, however if that is not possible, our goal at Community Hospice is that we are the vessel through which hope flows!

You Can Play a Role in Honoring Veterans

Linda Yosick and Carol Wallick have a passion for both veterans and hospice. Community Hospice served their brother who was a veteran. They have directed that passion to serving other veterans by creating quilts which are given to veterans who come to Hospice House. These quilts are beautifully done and reflective of the sacrifice our veterans have made. Each quilt is given a “special name” and is presented to the veteran as a part of the pinning ceremony. While Linda and Carol donate their time to create these quilts, we are trying to generate funding for the materials used. The materials per quilt are $80.00.

You can make it possible to honor a veteran by enclosing $80.00 in the newsletter envelope and designating it for a veterans quilt. We would welcome your partnership as a “Quilt Sponsor” in this very significant way.

Taking Flight

By: Bob Phipps, Director of Development

It’s been said that once you ride a bike, you never forget how. For Howard Moomaw the same can be said about taking flight in an airplane. Howard is an Air Force man, a meteorologist. Having grown up with an interest in flying, it was no surprise that he enlisted in the Air Force in the early days of World War II. In 1932 he watched the first flight of the USS Macon, a rigid airship built and operated for scouting and served on a flying aircraft carrier. World War II brought great advances in meteorology as large scale military land, sea and air campaigns were very dependent on the weather. Howard was part of the team supporting the American effort against the Japanese in the China-Burma-India theatre. The special ops weather teams in India had been much honored and heralded because of their contribution to the successful outcomes in that period.

Howard, at age 91, still had a burning desire to take another flight. His family supported his quest for taking to the air once again, and Jan Miller, Patient and Family Liaison for Community Hospice, had the true honor of planning an experience for Howard and his family. So, in a touch of irony, a flight was planned on a day when the skies held a lot of moisture and the weather was questionable. Partnering with John Croft, Community Hospice Veteran
Volunteer, and Pixie Furbee, Community Hospice We Honor Veterans Program Coordinator, over 15 veterans joined Howard and his family at Harry Clever airport in New Philadelphia on Wednesday, June 17th. The veterans conducted a Pinning Ceremony for Howard and the other veterans who were present but not yet had received this honor. “Pinning” is a special ceremony provided by Community Hospice where a veteran is recognized and thanked for their service, presented with a “pin” to the lapel, saluted and presented a flag and certificate. It is an element of the National Hospice ‘We Honor Veterans Program’.

As Howard arrived at the airport the clouds were low and visibility minimal. Assured by pilot David Schluep of ProAv that the weather would improve, veterans and family enjoyed some refreshments while reliving some of their military experiences. The pilot and mechanics involved worked hard to prepare for the flight. As probably happened with Howard many times in his flying career, the skies cleared and he climbed into the co-pilots seat. Those observing witnessed the glow of a man who was in familiar environs as Howard donned the head set and started to communicate with pilot Schluep. The taxi and takeoff were perfect as Howard and his son and daughter lifted off from the airfield for a 35 minute flyover of the area. The seamless landing led Howard to ask his next question: “When can we go up again?”

As one of the staff working closely with Howard and his family recalled Howard’s experience, she reflected on what a wonderful story it was. Howard’s wife had reservations because of the weather but was willing to “let go” in order for Howard to have an experienced he longed for. Howard “let go” of a bit of his independence so he could be assisted into the airplane by his family and hospice care providers. It’s lesson to us all in humility; that as we let go our lives are blessed.

The experience was a gift to Howard and his family from The Betty’s Gift Fund of Community Hospice. The fund is named after Betty Drabik, a longtime friend and supporter of Community Hospice. The fund is used for a variety of unique experiences whose expenses are outside the normal operating budget of Community Hospice.
**Dr. Anne Harper, Medical Director**

Dr. Anne graduated from Tusky Valley, then completed college at Geneva College. After graduation from NEOMED, she completed an Internal Medicine residency in Canton, then married and returned home. Through years spent first in private practice and then as health commissioner, she and her husband were blessed with four healthy children. In 2004, her father became ill and she was introduced to hospice care. Shortly after he died, she went to hospice to work and became board certified in hospice and palliative medicine. In the last decade, she has grown personally and spiritually due to the opportunity hospice has provided to serve and show compassion for our patients. For this, she shares, she will be forever grateful.

**RaeAnn Dabel, Supply Clerk & Palliative Care Secretary**

RaeAnn started her Community Hospice journey back in 2002 as a volunteer, providing support at our fundraising events such as the Annual Garage Sale, Rigatoni Dinner and Culinary Capers. In 2004, she accepted the full-time position as Stark County Receptionist and also assisted with Medical Records. She later transitioned into the billing department and also ran the Community Hospice Used Equipment Store located in Uhrichsville until it closed. Since the opening of the Community Hospice House, she has found her calling in organizing and maintaining the Central Supply area, while also assisting the Palliative Care program as Secretary. RaeAnn is a proud mother and grandmother! She has a son who lives in Texas, a daughter who lives in New Phila and a granddaughter that is a sophomore at Akron University. In her free time she enjoys reading, cross stitch and traveling!

**Mathew Manchester, Social Worker**

Matthew received his social work education in Tempe, AZ and Seattle, WA. After being raised in Arizona, where it is too hot to grow, and years in Seattle, where there is not enough sun, Matthew finds Ohio to be just perfect for raising his family. Matthew has worked for years in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, homelessness and trauma. He has discovered that work in hospice has been incredibly rewarding and challenging. He loves the work at Community Hospice and the people he works with.

**Suzanne Bates, Liaison**

Suzanne has been an LPN, CHPLN (Certified Hospice and Palliative Licensed Nurse) with Community Hospice since 2003. She has been a primary care team nurse, working directly with patients and families, and have also been the admissions coordinator. Her most recent role has been the Community and Facility Liaison, having contact with our 40 plus contracted nursing facilities, a place many of our patients call home. She is also part of many civic and senior service organizations in the counties we serve. She lives in East Sparta with my husband of 25 years Don, and has two adult children. She shares “having experienced the loss of both of my parents while under the care of hospice, I embrace the hospice philosophy and believe in the services we provide”.

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Wings of Hope Annual Effort to Support

In 2010 Community Hospice was approached by a special group of community residents who wanted to do something special for us, more specifically they wanted to raise funds for “child centered” causes at Hospice House. At that point, several of our needs had been taken care of but the need for “décor and a game system” for our pediatric care room was still unspoken for. The group conducted their first Barnett Realtors Wings of Hope Ball and met their goal of providing for our pediatric room. In 2011, the special event raised enough funds to underwrite the cost of construction on the pediatric room itself. In 2012 the group again asked what they could do to assist with paying for the now open Hospice House. They were encouraged to raise funds for the “Guest Room” which visiting families quite often are able to make use of for overnight stays and they successfully did so through their annual ball. Wanting to do even more, we are pleased that The Barnett Realtors Wings of Hope Committee raised funds for a much needed pavilion, which is being enjoyed by patients, families, staff and the community. They also provided a beautiful donor wall entitled “Tree of Hope” which allows our families to memorialize their loved ones with the purchase of a leaf. This year’s Gala Ball (which is the vehicle used to raise the funds) was held February 6th, 2016 at The Kent State Performing Arts Center.

Community Hospice Benefits from Congressional Relationship

Congressman Bill Johnson has blessed Community Hospice with three separate and meaningful engagements in 2015. In May we had the opportunity to host Representative Johnson at our Carroll Office and Browse and Buy Store. It was a meaningful time of sharing not only ways we feel we are serving the community but also some of the challenges we face in the changing world of health care. In July, Bob Phipps, Director of Development, had the opportunity to call on Representative Johnson in his office in Washington during National Hospice Advocacy Days. The focus of the visit was discussing the importance of some legislative changes that could affect Medicare payments for hospice in a negative way. As always, Representative Johnson was a good listener and sympathetic to some of the struggles changes in regulation could cause.

In September Representative Johnson visited The Hospice House and shared he has had a personal history with a similar hospice organization, and wanted to see this state of the art facility.

The Congressmen reflected on his tour with the following comments: “Remarkable. When people come to the end of life, I can think of no better facility, no better way to go out, than to be with people that really care about them. You folks demonstrate in what you do that you have a heart for these folks. And I think the biggest part of what you do probably impacts the families more than anything else. This is a tremendous facility. You guys are doing a great job.”

Secret Friends

Community Hospice is blessed throughout the year by many individuals and groups who financially support our work without our even knowing about it. During 2015, approximately $170,000 was provided by way of memorial donations to Community Hospice. During the holiday season, we receive numerous gifts from groups who provide year end and very important donations to us. Among this year’s donors were The Tuscarawas County Farm Bureau, First Baptist Church of New Philadelphia, the Ohio Association of Public School Employees (District 4), New Town Mall, The Doris and Floyd Kimball Foundation, The Helen Brach Foundation, Quanex Foundation, Basec Property Management, Kelly Miller, Dover Moose Lodge and New Philadelphia Elks, Carlise Family Farms, Linda Earley and David Engelhart and Mark and Melinda Willard. We continue to be grateful for these gifts and for those who give them so our mission of bringing peace, hope and compassion to our patients and their families can be continued.
CALENDER OF EVENTS 2016

For more information on our Fundraising Events please visit our website at www.MyHospice.org!

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<td>March 31</td>
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<td>August 4, 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>GIANT Garage Sale</td>
<td>Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds</td>
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