

HOSPICE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

NEWSLETTER/SPRING 2017

THE BOND BETWEEN NURSE, PATIENT, FAMILY

"We do not want our parents to exit this world in a hospital room. We want them comfortable in their home and surrounded by their loving family."

-Deb, daughter

Welcome to our family's home: it is a crisp spring morning in the North Country as Sadie, LPN and Aislinn, RN, enter the home of Norma and her husband Peter who is currently a patient under Hospice care. But the atmosphere here is far from being one of gloom or sadness but rather high spirits as they are greeted by Norma's sunny smile.

Although Peter has been a Hospice patient for a few months, they have not yet met Sadie. The LPN who usually visits them is Bonnie; Sadie is filling in today so she introduces herself to Peter and Norma. Norma has learned from Bonnie how to **care best** for Peter and so she is able to skillfully work with Sadie today to prepare Peter for the day. Peter spends his day in bed and Norma talks about how wonderful it was to learn how to help Peter dress and to change his sheets with him in the bed. While Peter is being cared for, the family dog (Peanut) is pacing around the bed, anxiously awaiting his morning nap on Peter's bed.

Aislinn is Peter's RN Case Manager, and she sees Peter once a week. She makes small talk with Peter and Norma while still working in a question here and there about how Peter is doing. The conversation seems so natural - like one between old friends and yet Aislinn is still able to get everything she needs to know from Norma without making her feel like she is only there to assess Peter's health.

Later on, Sadie makes small talk with Peter and tells him when she will see him again while Norma and Aislinn talk in the kitchen as they prepare Peter's breakfast. Aislinn wants to be sure that Norma is doing ok herself, so they chat comfortably about how both Peter and Norma are holding up. As a Hospice Nurse, Aislinn focuses not just on the patient but the whole family. Peter's care and well-being are directly related to that of his caregiver. (Continue reading this story inside the newsletter)



Peanut, the family dog, taking his morning nap on Peter's bed.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Every day and everywhere I go, patients and families tell me how wonderful our Hospice Staff are. Whether we provided care in their homes, in our Residence, or in one of the area nursing homes, the message is always the same: "Your staff is wonderful, professional, compassionate, amazing, loving, and knowledgeable. They were there when we needed them, they listened to us, they comforted us, and they helped us to deal with our fears." And did I mention *AMAZING*?

Our mission statement calls on us to provide expert care to those we serve, and our team of professional nurses, social workers, volunteers, bereavement staff, and support staff work to make this their daily priority. Their dedication truly does "*Make Every Day Matter*." I am so honored to work with such passionate people.

Our staff and the work they do are featured in this newsletter. I know you will be as proud as I am that they are integral members of our caring community. Hospice is so fortunate to have them as part of our team.

Another beautiful North Country spring is setting in as the cold and snow finally loosen their grip on the region. New life is emerging on our campus; the ice on the pond has melted and the new Banister Bridge is free of snow. In the near future goslings will be exploring the pond, the air will be filled with the sounds of spring peepers, and the Mary MacSherry Reflection Garden will begin to show its blooms.

Please know that your interest and support make our services possible.

My best regards,

Diana

Diana Woodhouse

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Many thanks to our Board members, volunteers and staff.

Your dedication is remarkable.

GIVING PATIENTS WHAT THEY NEED

“Having Hospice is not neglecting the patient, it is giving them what they need.” Yvonne

When faced with the realization that the end of life is near, a family has to take the time to make a decision regarding what they want. For Tom and Yvonne, that decision was stressful, but in the end, Tom’s wishes led them to Hospice of Jefferson County. The relationship started in the hospital, when Tom and his family met with Colleen, our Hospice Admissions Nurse. She explained the services Hospice would provide, the need for a primary caregiver and that the focus of care would be on making every day the best it could be for Tom and his family. The decision was made to take Tom home. He would live out his final months surrounded by his family, in the house he grew up in, . *“After years of doctors and hospitals, Hospice allowed my father to spend his last couple of months in the comfort of his home, under the amazing care of our Hospice nurses,”* remarked Amber, one of their daughters.

Yvonne, his wife and primary caregiver, said *“I wasn’t sure I could handle it, taking care of Tom at home, but Bonnie [their hospice LPN] showed me how to do things. We had a system and worked together like a team.”* Bonnie shared, *“The first couple of days are feeling each other out, getting to know the patient and family and learning what their expectations are.”* Getting to know the patient and family allows Bonnie to provide the best care for Tom while also accommodating his family’s needs. Amber echoed this sentiment, saying *“The nurses treated my father, and mother, with such amazing tenderness and respect, while staying positive and with the perfect amount of humor my parents needed.”* Tom and Yvonne both stayed positive right until the very end, keeping both their sense of humor and faith; they were also often visited by family, friends, their parish priest and nuns.



Bonnie Brown
Hospice LPN

Yvonne talked about hospice being the *“ideal situation”* - allowing them to be able to care for Tom as a family at home and not in a “sterile” hospital environment, while still providing him with care 24/7. They would no longer be constantly running back and forth to doctors, but could still be assured that he was receiving constant care, knowing Hospice is just a phone call away day or night. Tom and Yvonne’s son lives across the country and remarked, *“Being far away from home, the peace of mind knowing a highly trained nurse from hospice was coming in to care for my dad every day was worth its weight in gold. The treatment provided by hospice allowed my father to pass away on his own terms in a caring environment.”* In the end, the children were thankful that hospice was also able to tell them when it was ‘time to come home’. Amber added, *“If it weren’t for the nurses, we might have missed our father’s final day with us.”*

Tom spent his final months at home surrounded by family and friends. Yvonne shared stories of family visits: their home being filled with love and happiness; the grandkids running around the living room; friends coming to visit. All things the family is thankful Tom had the opportunity to enjoy and be part of thanks to Hospice. Yvonne shared what it was like in the family home just hours before Tom passed: the family was sharing stories and spending quality time with Tom knowing he would soon be gone. Yvonne spoke of this time with a smile on her face as she shared: *“Tom couldn’t have passed away more peacefully”.*



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Attend one of our events.
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organization!



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Save The Date

June 2- Hospice Spring Fling,
Ryan's Lookout

June 4- Broadway Bound
Competition, First Presbyterian
Church

August 4-5- Hospice Charity Cup
Regatta, Crescent Yacht Club

August 12- Dick Guyette Golf
Tournament- Cedars Golf Course

August 12- Hospice Hustle,
Henderson Harbor

September 15- Swing for Hospice
Golf Tournament, Ives Hill

December 10- Ted Keegan's I'll Be
Home for Christmas

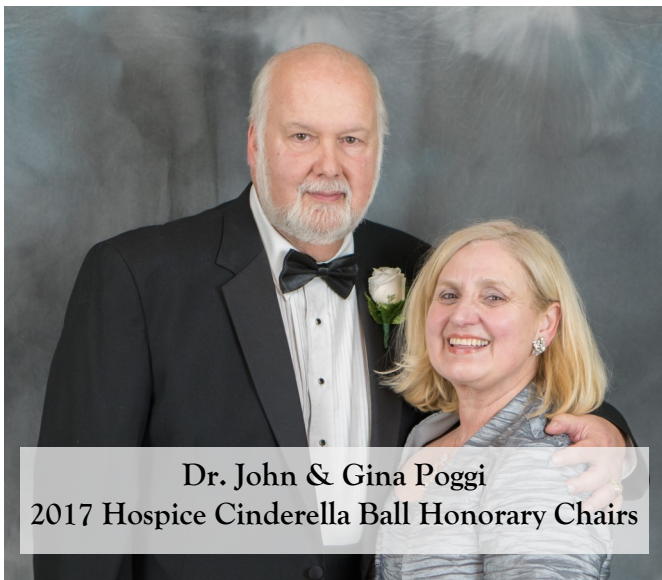
A special thank you to Coughlin Printing for donating a portion of the printing cost.

FROM OUR FOUNDATION

THANK YOU! Your generosity allows Hospice of Jefferson County to serve patients with a life-limiting illness and their families.



Students from the First Annual Broadway Bound Competition perform with Ted Keegan at his annual Christmas Concert for Hospice, January 2017.



Dr. John & Gina Poggi
2017 Hospice Cinderella Ball Honorary Chairs



The partnership continues with the Urban Mission!
Joanna Loomis and Diana Woodhouse
2017 Hospice Cinderella Ball



2017 Hospice Cinderella Ball - Thank you to Ryan Grant for donating his photography services!

To learn more about our Hospice events or other ways to support our organization and the services we provide to the community contact: Nicole Paratore, Director of Community Relations nparatore@jeffersonhospice.org - 315.788.7323



Volunteer Gary Robbins presenting We Honor Veterans Certificate to Peter, with wife, Norma

(continued from cover)

Norma feeds Peter while chatting comfortably with Aislinn and her son in law. They talk about the day and what everyone has planned. Peter enjoys listening to audiobooks and taking naps with Peanut. Peter looks

forward to visits from his children and grandchildren, who stop by often to spend time with him. Norma reminds Peter that Debbie (his daughter) is coming today while she goes for lunch and runs errands. The family jokes that Debbie spoils her father and when Norma says to Peter - "Debbie spoils you doesn't she?", Peter just smiles knowingly.

Peter and Norma share stories about meeting while in the Air Force in England and then moving their family to the US for employment. Relatives already lived here and had a farm with a lot of land. They talk about spending time in Florida with another daughter and their memories of summers on Lake Bonapart. Norma and Peter have been blessed with a wonderful family: five children and six grandchildren and truly enjoy the time they spend together.

As Peter's health deteriorated, Norma knew Peter wanted to be home instead of the hospital, but she was nervous and afraid. She didn't know if she could care for Peter. Norma says Hospice eased that fear by giving her the needed guidance and tools to keep Peter at home. Norma tells us she couldn't do it without Hospice and believes Hospice is a gift her family has been given. Norma and Peter's two daughters also share their gratitude: *"It was not until my father was in need that I learned what Hospice offered."*-Susan, daughter. *"They [the hospice team] have enhanced Dad's quality of life, preserved Dad's dignity and are dealing with Dad's end of life issues while providing emotional support for my Mom as caregiver and the family."*-Deb, daughter

The bond formed between a patient, a patient's family and a Hospice nurse is unique. Hospice nurses meet patients when they are at their most vulnerable and afraid. Often times when a family hears the word 'hospice' they become fearful of what lies ahead. Once hospice comes in, however that fear changes. A bond is formed between the hospice nurse, the patient and their family. Their nurse eases the family's fears, educates the family on the care their loved one will need and is always there with an honest answer, a helping hand and a listening ear. *"While 'hope' means different things to different people, Hospice is there for you to live out what 'hope' means to you and your loved ones"*-Deb, daughter.

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

Hospice of Jefferson County offers a wide range of bereavement services to assist families and friends following the loss of a loved one. Our support groups are open to anyone in the community. Bereavement is a personal experience, which no two people process the same.

Bereavement Evening Support Group- Third Tuesday of every month at Hospice from 5:30PM to 7:00PM.

Bereavement Day Support Group- First Tuesday of every month from 11:00AM to Noon at Hospice.

Left Behind by Suicide Group- Second Thursday of the month from 6:30PM to 8:00PM at Hospice.

Bereavement Luncheon- The first Tuesday of every month, call for rotating restaurant location.

JUNE 14, 2017- Annual Memorial Service- Each year Hospice of Jefferson County holds a memorial service remembering loved ones lost in the past year. All family and friends are welcome to attend.

AUGUST 8, 2017- Over the Rainbow Children's Day Camp- Summer day camp for children ages 6-12 involves learning coping skills while having fun with a group of peers.

Holiday Remembrance (date TBD)- Children are invited to come together in honor of their loved one to remember them through various holiday themed activities.

Please contact Hospice:
315.788.7323

bereavement@jeffersonhospice.org
www.jeffersonhospice.org
for more information on
bereavement services.