

Angels.....with us

February 2006



Hospice Alliance, Inc.

Commitment • Compassion • Choices

From Our Executive Director...

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The Medical Director's role is a critical part of the hospice team. Joshua Bloom, M.D. has been in this position at Hospice Alliance for the past seven years. Dr. Bloom has also been a member of the Board of Directors for the last twelve years. His medical practice is devoted to pulmonary medicine and critical care.

When I approached Dr. Bloom seven years ago to ask him if he would come to my rescue and accept the position of Medical Director, he responded with "I will only do this for a short period of time." He is still in the role as Medical Director for Hospice Alliance and we are blessed. Dr. Bloom is a very committed and faithful member of the team and is truly dedicated to quality end of life care. I would guess the reason he is still serving with hospice is that he finds the work fulfilling and receives much satisfaction working with the Hospice Alliance team of caring professionals.

As the Hospice Alliance Medical Director, Dr. Bloom works closely with the hospice staff. He attends the weekly staff meetings and serves as an educational resource for the team. His role is not to replace the primary physician, but to work with them in a collaborative and consultative manner. Dr. Bloom reviews the hospice admissions to assure they meet the hospice criteria. He provides guidance and direction whenever requested.

As a member of the Hospice Alliance Board of Directors, Dr. Bloom was also involved in creating the vision to build our Hospice House. A vision that would offer a place for those individuals facing the end of their life and who, for whatever reason, are not able to remain in their home. Dr. Bloom is now the physician who oversees this special service to our community.

We consider it a gift to have Dr. Bloom as a member of our Hospice Alliance team. We value the opportunity to learn from his vast knowledge, appreciate his willingness to be available to us when we call and admire his commitment to serve our community.

FOUNDATION BOARD

John Plous, President

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Hospice Alliance, Inc.
10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd.
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158
(262) 652-4400
(800) 830-8344

Connie Matter

Executive Director



WELCOME!

As the need for our services continues to grow, we have added the following staff members:

Sylvia Acheson, LPN

Sally Beland, RN

Hiliary Blalock, Office/Admin

Pam Clark, RN

Barbara Hileman, Office/Admin

Cathy Jackson, RN

Debra Johnston, LPN

Terry Klemp, RN

Angie Piek, CSW—Bereavement

Leona Rappa, LPN

Christine Sanders, Accounting

13th Annual Teleconference Addresses Pain Management at the End of Life

The 13th annual Hospice Foundation of America video teleconference, co-sponsored by Hospice Alliance and Gateway Technical College, is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 5** at the BioCATT building on the Kenosha Gateway campus. This year's topic is **Pain Management at the End of Life : Bridging the Gap Between Knowledge and Practice.**

Registration will take place in Room 120 beginning at noon, and a light lunch will be provided. The program, moderated locally by Bethany Coats-Topel, MSW, a Hospice Alliance bereavement counselor, begins at 12:30 p.m..

The teleconference will explore ways in which health care workers and the general public can work together to improve the societal approach to pain management for the person with a terminal illness. This will include pharmaceutical, psycho-social, spiritual and alternative methods of pain management.

A community panel will be featured to conclude the afternoon. This program has been approved for three hours of continuing education (CEUs). There is a \$25 online processing fee or \$30 if processed through the mail. To register, please call Hospice Alliance at 652-4400.

St. Anne's "Mustard Seeds" Donate Money and Gifts



Members of the Garza family, Kali, Rianna and Anthony, present Hospice House patient Eleanor Mattson with a Valentine gift.

The St. Anne's Catholic Church "Mustard Seed Group" recently made Valentine baskets, decorated crosses and door hangers. They sold them at church, raising \$218 for Hospice Alliance!

This project was spearheaded by Tammy Garza, whose father Ron Schroeder was a patient in the Hospice House.

VA and HOPE Partnership Celebrated

Hospice Alliance Executive Director Connie Matter presents Dr. Richard Borman with a pin in appreciation for his past Air Force service. Connie is a member of the state Veterans and Hospice partnership committee, which brings together the Veterans Administration and the HOPE (Hospice Organization and Palliative Experts) of Wisconsin to assure that veterans are given the opportunity to learn about and receive hospice services.



Connie Matter and
Richard Borman

Dr.

A Veterans Day Program at Hospice Alliance featured members of the Kenosha Viet Nam Veterans' Color Guard and the Order of the Cooties gifted Hospice Alliance with a flag. The military service of Hospice Alliance volunteers was acknowledged with a VA-Hospice partnership pin as the service anthem of each branch was played.

Commitment • Compassion • Choices



Eileen Frank models one of the new burgundy smocks that helps identify those volunteering in the Hospice House. The logo patches were attached by volunteer Eve Meier. She also made vests that are worn by those representing Hospice Alliance while out in the community, at such activities as Bingo and expos.

Eileen has been a Hospice Alliance volunteer since 1991! She's one of our Hospice House volunteers who helps with meals and laundry, as well as visits with and supports the patients and their families.



Lucille Upright, a patient in our Hospice House, snuggles with her new fleece blanket made and donated by Cindy Ruhle. Other quilts and lap robes have been received from the Quad Quilters of Kenosha County Catholic Churches and the Charity Quilters from Calico Canvas and Colors in Racine. We are so grateful for each of these cozy and unique creations.

Decorated quilt squares in memory of loved ones have also been arriving daily at Hospice Alliance. The Southport Quilters Guild will begin assembling a 25th Anniversary Memorial Quilt at their March meeting.



Ralph Novacek chooses to volunteer by sharing his talent as an accordion player for those in nursing home and assisted living settings.

This 85 year old musician entertains with a repertoire of old standards and hymns. Residents are encouraged to sing along from the "Novacek Songbook."

Ralph's schedule is full. He's committed to regular performances at Oakridge, Washington Manor, Alterra-Clare Bridge, Mt. Carmel and Villa St. Anna. Ralph also spends his "free time" bowling.

Bereavement Services Offered

Hospice Alliance bereavement services are provided for families for 13 months following the death of a loved one. Counselors have regular communication with family members, facilitate support groups and coordinate the social group.

We're pleased that Angie Piek has joined our bereavement department, after having served as an intern for the past six months. She and fellow bereavement counselor Bethany Coats-Topel, MSW, are currently involved in the planning for the upcoming grief teleconference (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).

They would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Kenosha Women's Network for underwriting the recent Young Widows' Seminar and they'd like to announce the next grief support group. It will be held on Fridays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Northside Library from April 7th through May 19, with no session on Good Friday (April 14).



Angie Piek, Bereavement Counselor

The next semi-annual memorial service is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, at Hospice Alliance.

You're Invited to Volunteer For Hospice Alliance

Hospice Alliance volunteers are a vital part of the hospice team. While enhancing the lives of patients and their families, volunteers gain satisfaction and enrichment in their own lives.

Won't you join our very special group of Hospice Alliance volunteers? There are many ways to help, so whatever you think you would like to do, we probably have a spot available.

Many of our volunteers provide respite for patients in their homes. There are always errands to be run—taking paperwork to physicians for signatures, delivering walkers, wheelchairs and other light equipment to our patients or picking up prescriptions from physicians and taking them to the pharmacy to be filled. Some of our volunteers assist with mailings, expos, health fairs, or with fundraising. There are several who help in the office assembling admission packets, doing computer work or filing.

Many volunteers work in our Hospice House preparing meals for our patients, doing laundry, and most importantly, visiting with patients and their families to provide companionship and support. The new Meditation Garden will offer opportunities to volunteer outdoors.

Our patients who are in nursing homes or assisted living facilities also enjoy visits from our volunteers. We are pleased to have volunteers conducting monthly Bingo and providing other entertainment in facilities.

We have a new training class beginning February 28, 2006. Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and will continue until March 23, 2006 at the Hospice Alliance office. If you are interested in this opportunity, or would like further information, please call Helen Plous, Volunteer Coordinator, at 652-4400. Pre-registration is necessary.

We would be so happy to have you join our extraordinary team of volunteers.

♥ Love Letters ♥

"We'd like to express our sincere thanks for the excellent care given to my mom. We called you on the recommendation of the assisted living facility nurse, as Mom's health had deteriorated to the point that it was difficult for them to give the care required. The cooperation between Hospice Alliance and the facility allowed her to remain there as she reached the end of her life."

"In the face of no hope, there is hope with hospice. My beloved wife, with terminal cancer, was blessed to have Hospice Alliance by her side until she left this earth for a better place. There is no way to adequately express our heartfelt thanks to your great caring staff."

Halo Volunteers Stay Busy



Emil Vranak, a Halo volunteer since 1996 and our official office "shredder," presents Connie Matter with a check for \$2685. This represents the fundraising done in 2005 through various activities as bake sales, Treasure Sales, Boston Store Community Days and raffles. These funds help support the Hospice House Sponsorship Program.

Halo volunteers recently helped with annual appeal and newsletter mailings, as well as packaging gloves and gauze rolls for our staff.

They're currently selling coupon books for the Boston Store Community Day and will be working in the store the day of the event.

"Thank you so much for your concern and guidance as my mother and our family prepared to part company. Thank you for helping to 'educate' our family and for speaking frankly and honestly to my mother in her final days. Thanks for explaining the services available to my father and me. I feel so blessed to have been a part of this process."

“Celebration” Fundraiser Being Planned



Gathered for a recent planning meeting are from left to right, seated, Mary Hawkins, RoseMarie Schmidt and Mary Karnes. Standing are Tom O'Neal and Nancy Piasecki.

Mark Your Calendar

Kenosha Chamber Expo

Saturday and Sunday
February 25 & 26, 10:00-4:00
UW-Parkside

Harmony House of Kenosha Health Fair

Saturday, February 25, 1:00-3:00

Boston Store Community Day

Saturday, March 4

Grief Teleconference

Wednesday, April 5, noon-4:00
Gateway—BioCATT

Jane Cremer Programs

Wednesday, April 5, 6:00 p.m.
Kenosha Museum
Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 p.m.
Roma Lodge

Volunteer Recognition

Tuesday, April 25
(Details to follow)

Planning is underway for “Celebration,” a gala evening benefiting Hospice Alliance and commemorating its 25th anniversary. The event will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2006, at the University of Wisconsin—Parkside.

Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction will take place from 6:00 to 7:30. Dinner will be served at 7:30, followed by an honoree presentation, oral auction and dessert buffet.

Mary Karnes is chairing the event. Other committee members include Jan Abrahamson, Leslie Chumbley, Patte Bleil, Mary Jane Ewens, Mary Hawkins, Mary Kay Heller, Tom O'Neal, Nancy Piasecki and RoseMarie Schmidt.

Meditation Garden Plans Progress

With Spring just around the corner, we're looking forward to further progress on the Hospice House Meditation Garden. The “hardscape” work and soil preparation were done in the fall, thanks to the efforts of Project Manager Kate Field of Gateway, the Bristol Group and a generous donation of Father Dom's Duck's Doo.

A volunteer team is being organized to help with installation and long-term maintenance of the garden. If this is an area you're interested in, call Judy Walthers at 652-4400 and your name will be added to the list. Once weather permits, planting will begin.

We're also pleased to be working with an Eagle Scout, Dominic James, who'll be building and installing 5 birdhouses. His purpose is to “enhance the aesthetics of our facility and increase wildlife in our area.”

The Meditation Garden will provide a peaceful sanctuary during a difficult time. We're grateful for all who've been instrumental in making this vision become a reality.

**Our newsletter is now
printed on our website
www.hospicealliance.net**

If you'd prefer to view it in that manner, please contact us at 652-4400 to have your name removed from our mailing list.

Check for upcoming editions in
June and October.



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We're on the web!

www.hospicealliance.net



The Medicare Hospice benefit does not allow for Hospice House room and board reimbursement.

75 patients were cared for in the Hospice House in 2005.

Some of these patients received sponsorship dollars from community donors in the amount of **over \$13,000.**

Sponsorship Program

I'd like to become a SPONSOR!

A Day @ \$100_____ A Week @ \$700_____

A Month @\$3000_____ Other_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Please detach and mail to:

Hospice Alliance, Inc.
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