

Angels.....with us

October 2008

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



From Our Executive Director...

You may have seen our billboards featuring the message "Not just hospice...Hospice Alliance." This reflects our efforts to inform our community that all hospices are not the same and that we are special. We are "Your Community Hospice."

Hospice Alliance is very blessed to have been founded by a group of concerned citizens as a non-profit organization, governed by a local Board of Directors, and owned and sustained by our community. We are the only hospice in this area that can truly say we are 'community owned' and we take this responsibility very seriously.

We are facing difficult times as a nation and one cannot help but feel overwhelmed by the events of the day. However, for times such as these, it is possible to find personal satisfaction and meaning in giving of oneself; making a difference in your world in your own way.

We, the staff of Hospice Alliance, gratefully open our arms and hearts to those searching for a place where they can share their gifts, talents and themselves. A place where they can make a difference. I want you to know that there are many ways you can be of assistance to Hospice Alliance, ways in which you can be part of this very worthy mission.

If you are not able to volunteer your time to Hospice Alliance, just telling your family, neighbors and friends about us is one way you can help. Many people do not know that we are not the only hospice in our community. If one does need hospice services they should know that "asking for us by name" can ensure they receive end of life care from Hospice Alliance.

I would also like to encourage registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to inquire about our continuous care team. If you are retired, or would like limited part time work, this is an exciting opportunity for you to make a difference. This is a paid position that allows the nurse to give care at the bedside of a patient who is most often in their final days or hours. This is a time when care and support for the patient and family is desperately needed.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank each of you for your commitment, your friendship and your support. Without this support we would not be able to fulfill our mission; a mission that believes end of life is a time when dignity, compassion and the delivery of quality care is of the utmost importance.

Connie Matter
Executive Director

Welcome New Staff Members:

Sarah Breiwick, RN
Cristina DeJesus, LPN—Crisis Care
Susan Goodman-Turner, RN
Jacquelyn Grobschmidt, RN
Katherine Kreft, RN
Brenda Kutzler, CNA
Ann Moreau, RN
Nicole Scola, RN
Doreen Uick, RN
Catherine Wieczorek, CNA
Joyce Wilde, CNA

We're also happy to welcome Jenifer Picciuca, a social work intern from Loyola University. She will be with us until spring.

Customer Service Expert Addresses Staff



Dr. Moses Alstech, Professor of Marketing for Edgewood College's MBA Program, recently conducted an inservice for our employees. His topic was Patient and Family Satisfaction—Serving Internal and External Customers.

Picture Donated

Network Awards Grant



Bereavement Counselor Connie Dues accepts a \$900 grant from Kenosha Women's Network president Teresa Maerzke. These funds will be used to purchase books for children dealing with the serious illness and death of a loved one.



Former Hospice Alliance board member, Reverend Olen Arrington, receives this picture from Executive Director Connie Matter. The image is a puzzle assembled by former Hospice House patient Pat Harris and framed by volunteer Jane Riley. Pat visited Rev. Arrington's church, the Second Baptist Church of Kenosha, where this donation will be hung.

Snap on Employees Volunteer for United Way “Day of Caring”



Snap-on employees chose to participate in the United Way “Day of Caring” by sprucing up our Hospice House and administrative offices. Clockwise from top right, Gary Morris and Dave Johnson power-washed the building exterior; Linda Stachowski washed windows—greatly needed after the construction of the neighboring Target Store! Lou Pitsch painted our sign; John Pavao oiled and tightened hinges throughout the building, while Lori Wermse and Keith Furloni painted a stairwell.

It was very poignant that these co-workers chose to volunteer at Hospice Alliance. It had just been a year since Gary’s wife Diane was a patient in our Hospice House.

Service Clubs Donate

Rotary West awarded a \$1200 grant for a fountain, which has been placed in the “courtyard garden” between the Hospice House and the office.

Western Kiwanis provided funds for the purchase of several new televisions for the Hospice House.

We are so grateful for your generosity!

Fundraisers Benefit Hospice Alliance

Our community gives amazing support to our mission. Recent examples include the Siscofest Poker Run and the Prairie Riders Halloween Dance.

Hospice Alliance Benefits From TWO Car Shows

Hospice Alliance is pleased to have benefited from two car shows. Thanks to the efforts of "Firesuit Phil" Pofahl, his wife Barb and their daughter Linda Holly, our 2nd annual Benefit Car Show at Hospice Alliance on Sunday, August 3, netted over \$2000.



Members of The Kenosha Legends Car Club also chose to donate the \$1500 proceeds from their September show on Simmons Island.



Volunteers Bob Ellis and Henry Kuzik sold cookbooks and Car Show tee shirts.

A special thanks to Nello Cristiano of Midwest Novelty for his support of both of these events.



Linda Holly presented "Linda's Choice Trophy" to Tony Pontillo for his snazzy 1934 Roadster.

Meditation Garden Blossoms



Master Gardeners have faithfully maintained our Meditation Garden throughout this growing season. Special thanks to Kate Field and the Gateway Horticulture Program for their donation of garden plants.

Thank you to the family of Joseph Gedemer who donated cushions for the garden furniture. He and his wife Nell enjoyed sitting in the garden during the time he was a Hospice House patient.

Boy Scout Completes Project

Boy Scout Anthony Dreifke selected Hospice Alliance for his Eagle Scout project.

Work has been completed and the details include:

- sanding and repainting rusted metal on the front of our building
- obtaining and spreading 40 cubic yards of mulch.
- completing the "courtyard garden" by building and installing a fence and planting four trees.

We wish Anthony well as he continues his Scouting career!

6th Annual Remembrance Tree Lighting Planned

Plans are underway for our 6th annual Remembrance Tree Lighting on **Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.**

The program will include reflections, musical selections and the reading of names of those memorialized or honored with Holiday Lights (*see order form below*).

Refreshments will once again be provided and served by the St. Anne's Parish Community Christmas Ministry, chaired by Judy Lichter Summers. Judy is also a Hospice Alliance volunteer.

The evening will conclude with the drawing of the winners of our Holiday Raffle. Prizes include:

- a 4 foot tree decorated with handmade ornaments donated by the Lighthouse Lacers Guild
- a beautiful holiday quilt created by Marie Wasmund and Linda and Keith Caulk
- holiday basket
- lovely tea set and more...

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.



There will also be a drawing for this Vince Lombardi picture signed by nine Green Bay Packers legends:

Dave Robinson
Bob Jeter
Bob Long
Bill "Red" Mack
Doug Hart
Jim Grabowski
Bob Skoronski
Tom Brown
Marv Fleming

These tickets sell for \$5 each or 5 for \$20.



Marie Wasmund, her daughter and son-in-law Linda and Keith Caulk show off this year's annual holiday quilt donation. Also pictured is the "Lace Tree" created and donated by the Lighthouse Lacers.

There was a surprise donation of lace ornaments from Marge Rhodes of Marietta GA. She read about the lace tree on the Lighthouse Lacers website and wanted to contribute.

We are grateful to TC and Jim at Sew and Save in Racine for displaying the tree and quilt in their store the week of November 10.

Hospice Alliance Holiday Lights

Hospice Alliance invites you to help us light our Holiday Remembrance Tree with your purchase of Holiday Lights.

I would like to help light the Remembrance Tree on December 2, 2008 in honor / memory of

(#) _____ Lights at \$5.00 each Total: \$ _____

Purchased by:
Address:

Mail or bring your completed form to Hospice Alliance
10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd, Pleasant Prairie WI 53158

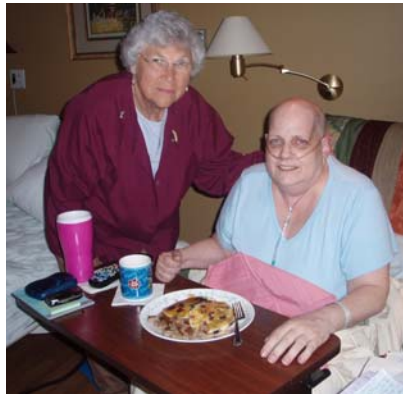
Commitment • Compassion • Choices



Ken Kohlmeier receives a dandelion paperweight as a token of appreciation from Connie Matter. Ken served 15 years on the Hospice Alliance Board of Directors, all of that time as secretary-treasurer.

Ken still remains involved by overseeing the maintenance of our building.

Thank you, Ken, for your years of service and dedication!



Faithful Hospice House volunteer Shirley Newby serves the late Debra Kadlac homemade blueberry pancakes. It's a real treat for Hospice House patients who say excitedly, "If it's Friday, it must be pancakes!"

Volunteers are always needed to provide meals for our House residents.



Mary Orlovsky is shown representing Hospice Alliance at the Belle City Senior Center Health Fair. Mary has been a volunteer with us since 2001.

As a SC Johnson retiree, Mary was eligible to apply for a "Dollars For Doers" award in the name of Hospice Alliance. We were pleased she chose to do this and we were pleased to receive \$250 in recognition of Mary's service.

"Save Your Fork" Story Shared

Our cookbook "Save Your Fork, The Best is Yet to Come" proved helpful to a Kenosha woman—and not just for recipes!

Last December Phyllis Brauck was planning her brother's funeral. David Schultz was our hospice patient at the end of his long battle with MS. He couldn't walk or eat and Phyllis planned to have a fork in his hand during his visitation. She also wanted to print the story of the woman who had made this same request of her pastor on her brother's funeral program. But Phyllis couldn't find the story and was so frustrated. She prayed for help.

While attending a St. Catherine's Commons craft fair, Phyllis' daughter bought a Hospice Alliance cookbook from volunteer Henry Kuzik. She couldn't really afford the \$10, but knew her mother collected cookbooks.

Phyllis reports that she gasped when she saw the cover! She had her story! You, too, can read the story. Cookbooks are still available and would make great gifts.

80th Birthday Celebrated



Hospice House patient Robert Hart enjoyed his 80th birthday—celebrated by family, staff and volunteers and with two cakes!

Connie Matter Reminisces



Connie Matter visits with long-time Hospice Alliance volunteers Lillian Jilk and Maria Vannicola.

Executive Director Connie Matter recently spoke to residents of St. Catherine's Commons Senior Apartments about the legacy of our community-owned hospice. Several played a part in our 27 year history, either as a volunteer or caregiver for a loved one receiving our services.

Make-your-own ice cream sundaes were enjoyed by all.

Fall Volunteer Training Completed



Volunteer Coordinator Helen Plous announces the recent completion of volunteer training classes by: (pictured from the left seated) Emily Lumley, Yasmin Martinez, Angela Schroer. Standing, Elaine Verhegge, Kathy Harvey, Scott Zierten, Naomi Waisman-Zabler, Debbie Ludwig. Not pictured, Ellen Larsen, Maureen Lewandowski, Bob Cummings, Mary Eastman and the late Mary Ostermeyer.

Welcome to the Hospice Alliance team!

♥ Love Letters ♥

"I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful care, concern and compassion you gave our friend in her last few weeks. It was the most peaceful I have seen her in a long time.

The tasks you face each day are not easy, but you seem to do them so calmly and unhurriedly.

May God continue to work with you every day. Thank you again."

"We would like to extend our sincere thanks for all you've done for our loved one and our family during her time in hospice care. You helped ease a lot of our worries and concerns at such a difficult time.

This was our first experience with hospice and we were greatly impressed."

"For the last few weeks you have been providing care for our father. He died comfortably and at peace. We know that all of you were 'just doing your jobs,' but we also know that there is more than one way to do a job. Each of you was not only very competent but also friendly and reassuring. We won't forget the strangers who came into our lives for a short time to allow our father to pass on at home and with dignity."



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the web!
www.hospicealliance.net



Sponsorship Program

The Medicare Hospice benefit does not allow for Hospice House room and board reimbursement. In the past 12 months, 14 Hospice House patients received sponsorship assistance.

Services in the Hospice House are provided at a significant loss to our overall operations in order to fulfill our mission.

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.

10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd.
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

If you would like to have your name removed from our mailing list, please check here.