The Past, Present and Future of Compassionate Care
In ancient Roman mythology, Janus, for whom January is named, is the two-faced god who looks to both the past and the future. It seemed appropriate for us to do so in this issue as well.

As we build the future Center for Hospice Care Mishawaka Campus we look forward to having a facility that will allow us to provide better service to our patients and their loved ones. Not only will the new facility allow us to be better stewards of our financial resources by eliminating the need for leased space, it will also give us the ability to host events such as our Walk for Hospice and Cycle at Sunset. It will have room for Circle of Caring events, as well as other recognitions and celebrations.

For those in our community who have lost a loved one, even those with no prior connection to Center for Hospice Care, our Bereavement Center will offer a variety of bereavement programs to educate and support people experiencing grief. Bereavement programs are available at no charge to anyone in the agency’s service area. It will also house the Center’s Alter Images Art Counseling Program, which provides a unique opportunity for individuals to explore grief issues through a creative, expressive counseling experience.

It is also appropriate to look back at the solid foundation provided by our 33-year history of providing compassionate care for those with serious, life-limiting illnesses. No matter what else has changed since we admitted our first patient in January of 1980, the ideal of providing a self-directed, pain-free, dignified end-of-life experience for our patients has not. Nor has our team-oriented approach to meeting the patient’s needs and providing support for his or her loved ones.

We look forward to the challenging – yet bright – future as we continue to build on our history of improving the quality of living for our patients and their families.

Michael J. Wargo
Chief Operating Officer
Why I Ride... “Hospice Was There for Us”

For many of the 974 cyclists who took part in this year’s Bike Michiana for Hospice, it was a great day to get out on a bike and ride for a good cause. For others, it was a way to give back to an organization that had been there for a loved one at a time when care and support was most needed.

In 2011, Bruce Foster rode in his first Bike Michiana for Hospice. “I’d never really ridden before but I thought I could do the 40-mile ride,” he said. That year, he rode in memory of his wife Sandy, a Center for Hospice Care patient who passed away on December 17th, 2010. “I wanted to take care of her myself,” he said, “but towards the end, I needed help and they were there with the equipment, the supplies, everything. They told us what to expect through the process and made everything more comfortable for me and my daughters.”

His mother helped his 2011 fundraising efforts by getting pledges and money. “She got about $1,500,” he said. In April that year, she became a CHC patient after a heart attack and a diagnosis of congestive heart failure. “The caregivers were awesome. They had such a good relationship with her.” After she passed away at Thanksgiving 2011, Bruce decided to take his commitment to Bike Michiana for Hospice to the next level. He bought a new bike and began running over the winter in anticipation of riding the 100-mile route. “I didn’t know if I could do it, but decided to go for it.”

He also decided to give raising $5,000 for the ride a shot as well. “I figured if my mom could raise $1,500 for my ride then I should give it a shot.”

With the help of family and friends around the country, Bruce raised $6,530.

For many of the 974 cyclists who took part in this year’s Bike Michiana for Hospice, it was a great day to get out on a bike and ride for a good cause. For others, it was a way to give back to an organization that had been there for a loved one at a time when care and support was most needed.

In 2011, Bruce Foster rode in his first Bike Michiana for Hospice. “I’d never really ridden before but I thought I could do the 40-mile ride,” he said. That year, he rode in memory of his wife Sandy, a Center for Hospice Care patient who passed away on December 17th, 2010. “I wanted to take care of her myself,” he said, “but towards the end, I needed help and they were there with the equipment, the supplies, everything. They told us what to expect through the process and made everything more comfortable for me and my daughters.”

His mother helped his 2011 fundraising efforts by getting pledges and money. “She got about $1,500,” he said. In April that year, she became a CHC patient after a heart attack and a diagnosis of congestive heart failure. “The caregivers were awesome. They had such a good relationship with her.” After she passed away at Thanksgiving 2011, Bruce decided to take his commitment to Bike Michiana for Hospice to the next level. He bought a new bike and began running over the winter in anticipation of riding the 100-mile route. “I didn’t know if I could do it, but decided to go for it.”

He also decided to give raising $5,000 for the ride a shot as well. “I figured if my mom could raise $1,500 for my ride then I should give it a shot.”

With the help of family and friends around the country, Bruce raised $6,530.

Eric and Mark Streeter rode the longest route of the event – 125 miles – in memory of their father, Will Streeter, an avid cyclist who was a CHC patient. Will Streeter passed away in April of 2012 from ocular melanoma. Up until two weeks before his death he was working on the design of the cycling jerseys his sons (and other supporters) would be wearing.

Will’s philosophy was to have a plan for getting from Point A to Point B but the biggest part of the experience, Mark said, “isn’t about doing something.”

And for all those who did something by riding in memory of a loved one, by raising funds to support Center for Hospice Care and Bike Michiana Coalition, by volunteering or by being part of the event, we offer our thanks. Special thanks also go to top fundraisers Rex Brown, Denise Floss-Coglazi-Milst, Mary Hedman, Donald Rentfro and Jason Stratton for their support.

If you have a story to share about why you rode in this year’s Bike Michiana for Hospice, we’d love to hear it. You can email it to Cyndy Searfoss at searfoss@centerforhospice.org or post it on our Facebook page, Bike Michiana for Hospice.
Inaugural World Hospice and Palliative Care Day Event Raises Funds for PCAU

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, which began in 2005, is now celebrated in more than 70 countries around the world. In South Bend, the Hospice Foundation held its inaugural celebration on October 11th at the Center for History/Studebaker Museum by hosting a screening of the short documentary Okuyamba. The event also featured a silent auction of local art and Ugandan craft items, and reception featuring a selection of international foods, wines, and beers. More than 75 people were in attendance. The event raised $10,176.44 and benefits FHSSA. Revenue from the evening totaled $10,176.44 and benefits FHSSA (Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa) and PCAU's building fund.

Compassionate Partnerships Bring Palliative Care to Where it’s Most Needed

It’s a country the size of Oregon, with a population that’s ten times greater. The median age is 15; life expectancy is 52. In many of the remote villages, the ratio of doctors to the general population is one to 50,000. Uganda has one radiotherapy machine, located in Kampala, in the southern part of the country. Patients who are able to afford therapy must be able to purchase food and find a place to stay for the 8-10 weeks of treatment and have at least one family member with them to care for them. This is the backdrop to the work of the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU).

Denis Kidde, International Programming Representative for Hospice Foundation, was part of the question and answer session following the screening. A Ugandan native and former eight-year employee of the African Palliative Care Association (as well as Rose’s son), Denis was able to offer a unique perspective regarding the need for palliative care in Uganda. “It was gratifying to see so many people interested in learning more about World Hospice Day and particularly PCAU,” said Mike Wargo, Hospice Foundation COO. “Once people see Okuyamba and understand the need in Uganda, the support they offer is amazing.”

The event is the outgrowth of a partnership between Hospice Foundation/Center for Hospice Care and the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU). In 2009, Rose Kiwanuka, country director for PCAU, came to the US to understand the need in Uganda, the support they offer is amazing. “It was gratifying to see so many people interested in learning more about World Hospice Day and particularly PCAU,” said Mike Wargo, Hospice Foundation COO. “Once people see Okuyamba and understand the need in Uganda, the support they offer is amazing.”

Revenue from the evening totaled $10,176.44 and benefits FHSSA (Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa) and PCAU’s building fund.

In 2009, Rose Kiwanuka, country director for PCAU, came to the US to understand the need in Uganda, the support they offer is amazing. “It was gratifying to see so many people interested in learning more about World Hospice Day and particularly PCAU,” said Mike Wargo, Hospice Foundation COO. “Once people see Okuyamba and understand the need in Uganda, the support they offer is amazing.”

Revenue from the evening totaled $10,176.44 and benefits FHSSA (Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa) and PCAU’s building fund.

In 2009, Rose Kiwanuka, country director for PCAU, came to the US to understand the need in Uganda, the support they offer is amazing. “It was gratifying to see so many people interested in learning more about World Hospice Day and particularly PCAU,” said Mike Wargo, Hospice Foundation COO. “Once people see Okuyamba and understand the need in Uganda, the support they offer is amazing.”

Revenue from the evening totaled $10,176.44 and benefits FHSSA (Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa) and PCAU’s building fund.
It was a chilly fall morning on the last day of September, 2012, when over 500 walnut Walk for Hospice volunteers arrived at Newton Park in Lakeside. The commitment the executive committee members had shown by meeting by phone months prior to the walk to make sure everything would go smoothly was evident. It was also apparent that each volunteer, and especially the participants of the event, were all there to thank Center for Hospice Care for the support and care their loved ones received during their final days. While participants walked, volunteers had the opportunity to look at the memory wall where their student and your school promotes community service hours, this is a great event to do. It's busy, fun, you move from task to task, interact with walkers and other volunteers and raise money for a great cause as well. 

Groups of volunteers such as Ivy Tech respiratory care students Christina Boettcher, Michael Beyler and Michelle Dewey along with groups of walkers as large as 150 came to make the 27th Annual Walk for Hospice a success. With almost 400 walkers and volunteers in attendance, over $31,000 was raised to help CHC provide hospice services to anyone who needs them, regardless of their ability to pay.

The 2013 Walk for Hospice committee, led by Rodino, Chairman of the Center for Hospice Care Board of Directors; Jeff Helman, President of Helman Sechrist Architecture; Jeff Rea, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County; Dave Wood, Mayor of Mishawaka; Mike Wargo, COO of Hospice Foundation; Catherine Hiler, Chairman of the Hospice Foundation Board of Directors, and Michelle Dewey along with groups of volunteers such as Ivy Tech respiratory care students Christina Boettcher, Michael Beyler and Michelle Dewey along with groups of walkers as large as 150 came to make the 27th Annual Walk for Hospice a success. With almost 400 walkers and volunteers in attendance, over $31,000 was raised to help CHC provide hospice services to anyone who needs them, regardless of their ability to pay.

The walk will be in a new location along the Mishawaka Riverwalk and will have a new date in the summer of 2013 to coincide with the completion of CHC's new riverfront home. The 2013 Walk for Hospice committee, led by Chair Nick Klero of Service Pantry, is excited about planning next year's walk and invites you or contact Lisa Kelly at KellyL@CenterforHospice.org for more information.

The foundation of the buildings that will house Center for Hospice Care’s administrative staff, Life Transition Center and Hospice Foundation personnel served as the backdrop for a ceremonial ground breaking on October 16. The new campus will be located along the northern bank of the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka, just west of Cedar Street.

Ground Breaking Ceremony Marks the Official Kickoff of New Mishawaka Campus

The foundation of the buildings that will house Center for Hospice Care’s administrative staff, Life Transition Center and Hospice Foundation personnel served as the backdrop for a ceremonial ground breaking on October 16. The new campus will be located along the northern bank of the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka, just west of Cedar Street. The ceremony was held across the river at Mishawaka River View 500. As attendees enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and refreshments, Mark Murray, President/CEO of CHC, Catherine Hiler, Chairman of the Hospice Foundation Board of Directors, Dave Wood, Mayor of Mishawaka and Sherald Anderson, representing Congressman Joe Donnelly’s office, spoke of the importance of CHC from their own vantage points. They shared stories ranging from the growth of the organization and how the new campus is important to that growth, to the indelible mark the services provided leave on the patients they serve and their loved ones.

Once completed, the new campus will bring together three separate offices under one roof, aiding in workflow and also saving the organization thousands of dollars each month.

27th Annual Walk for Hospice Offers Friends and Family an Opportunity to Remember Loved Ones

The foundation of the buildings that will house Center for Hospice Care’s administrative staff, Life Transition Center and Hospice Foundation personnel served as the backdrop for a ceremonial ground breaking on October 16. The new campus will be located along the northern bank of the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka, just west of Cedar Street. The ceremony was held across the river at Mishawaka River View 500. As attendees enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and refreshments, Mark Murray, President/CEO of CHC, Catherine Hiler, Chairman of the Hospice Foundation Board of Directors, Dave Wood, Mayor of Mishawaka and Sherald Anderson, representing Congressman Joe Donnelly’s office, spoke of the importance of CHC from their own vantage points. They shared stories ranging from the growth of the organization and how the new campus is important to that growth, to the indelible mark the services provided leave on the patients they serve and their loved ones.

Once completed, the new campus will bring together three separate offices under one roof, aiding in workflow and also saving the organization thousands of dollars each month.
A Camp for Healing

At first glance, Camp Evergreen seemed like a traditional Midwestern summer camp, complete with the requisite lake, nutty cabins and 60 or so shrieking campers. On the basketball court, a boy skied a shot and his teammates cheered. Nearby, some campers leaned against the wall chatting. A girl executed a series of cartwheels. Before the weekend was over, there were campfires, s’mores, horses, kayaking trips, fishing, games, crafts and memory-making ceremonies.

Only when you see the colorful rubber bracelets around campers’ wrists, imprinted with the words “Camp Evergreen,” and learn that a blue band indicates a camper who has lost his or her parent, a green band a grandparent, a yellow band a sibling, do you realize something is different. Camp Evergreen is the only camp of its kind in Northern Indiana, a camp for grieving children and teens who have suffered the loss of a significant person in their life, where idle chatter about cell phones, sports, music and crushes blends with conversations about the death of their loved one, the isolation they often feel and how the activities and group meetings help the campers find a sense of community among other campers struggling with similar grief concerns.

A volunteer, or “buddy” as they are usually called, quickly surmises that the most important details lay in getting a consensus from the group regarding which activity should be chosen for the first period of the day. Basketball? Fishing? Swimming? Craft boxes? Kayaking? Horses?

Campers, who are enthusiastic about taking part in Swimming? Craft boxes? Kayaking? Horses? camp activities to feel, as one stated, “less alone.” Their grief and losses are shared with the requisite lake, rustic cabins and 60 or so campers who have suffered the loss of a significant person in their life, where idle chatter about cell phones, sports, music and crushes blends with conversations about the death of their loved one, the isolation they often feel and how the activities and group meetings help the campers find a sense of community among other campers struggling with similar grief concerns.

A volunteer, or “buddy” as they are usually called, quickly surmises that the most important details lay in getting a consensus from the group regarding which activity should be chosen for the first period of the day. Basketball? Fishing? Swimming? Craft boxes? Kayaking? Horses?

Campers, who are enthusiastic about taking part in Swimming? Craft boxes? Kayaking? Horses? activities to feel, as one stated, “less alone.” Their grief and losses are shared with the buddies have the opportunity to explore the same high-ropes course prior to the arrival of the campers for the weekend. Finding courage and stamina to complete the course in the face of great anxiety was a lesson for the buddies about how the campers feel facing each day after the death of their loved one. Sharing grief and growth experiences with the campers makes the time spent fishing, canoeing, and creating art as a buddy even more meaningful. Most Camp Evergreen volunteers return year after year and wouldn’t miss the opportunity to “buddy up” with the campers that need a weekend of fun camp activities to feel, as one stated, “less alone.” The importance of volunteers was underscored when Director of Camp Evergreen Holly Farmer remarked “I am so grateful for our volunteers and Camp Evergreen would not be possible without them. Volunteers generously give their time, their attention and they are someone who will listen when the campers choose to talk. Campers can receive tremendous benefit from the relationship with their volunteer, but I often hear from the volunteers that they receive from the campers more than they feel they have given. The parents and guardians of the campers are also very appreciative of our volunteers and the first memory often shared with them after camp is about their volunteer.”

This year’s Camp Evergreen will be June 7-9. For registration or volunteer information contact Holly Farmer at 574.255.1064 or FarmerH@centerforhospice.org.
This year’s Helping Hands Award Dinner will honor Ann Manion, volunteer president of Women’s Care Center. The theme, “Celebrating Life” was selected in recognition of Ann’s work at Women’s Care Center as well as in recognition of Center for Hospice Care and its dedication to improving the quality of living. Since it began in 1985, the Helping Hands Award Dinner has honored an individual, couple or family who demonstrates civic and charitable stewardship to improve the quality of living in the communities served by Center for Hospice Care. The award recognizes the recipients for exhibiting generosity, outstanding community achievements, direct financial support or by motivating others to give. Through her work at Women’s Care Center, Ann has positively impacted the lives of thousands of people in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties in Indiana.

The 2013 dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 1st at the Hilton Garden Inn South Bend, beginning with a cocktail reception at 6 pm. Dinner will begin at 7 pm, in the Fleur de Lis Ballroom. Reservations for the dinner are now being accepted and can be made online at www.centerforhospice.org/hhad13. For more information on the event please contact Lisa Kelly at KellyL@centerforhospice.org or 574.293.3119.

As part of FHSSA’s (formerly Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa) Partnership Initiative, Center for Hospice Care (CHC) was linked with Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) in 2008. The goal of the partnership is to strengthen the health care system in Uganda by providing education, training, mentorship and support to ensure consistent standards for Palliative Care (PC). It also supports advocacy at all levels to strengthen collaborations and networking among PC providers, as well as promoting the formation of PCAU district branches to ensure that support is readily accessible to all PC professionals in locations close to their workplaces.

One of the key elements of the partnership is to organize internships in Uganda for Notre Dame students in both palliative and spiritual care. This ongoing program has been made possible thanks to support from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Hanna O’Brien, a College of Science Pre-Professional Studies and Anthropology double major at Notre Dame, was the first palliative care student intern to Uganda during the summer of 2010. She returned in 2011. The Institute also funded spiritual care internships for Notre Dame Master of Divinity students Ben and Mary Ann Wilson in 2011.

Other internship opportunities with PCAU for pre-medical, social work, nursing, spiritual care, psychology education and other students from recognized academic institutions are in the development phase. Students will be placed in member organizations with established PC services in Uganda which are located across the country. These sites will provide an opportunity to obtain practical experience as well as reinforce or “test” their personal values. Available sites include: Hospice Africa Uganda, Mobile Hospice Mbuzu, Little Hospice Hoima, The Mildmay Center, Hospice Jinja, Hospice Toro, Hospice Ngora, Hospice at Home Amuri, Kagando Hospital Palliative Care program, Arua Regional Referral Hospital, Kibuli Mobile Palliative Care program and Kawempe Home Care program. Interns will be placed according to objectives of their field of study, the needs of the intern, as well as the need of the hosting organization.

To learn more about internship opportunities in Uganda, contact Denis Kidde, International Programs Representative for the Hospice Foundation at 574.277.4860 or kiddde@centerforhospice.org.

As part of FHSSA’s (formerly Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa) Partnership Initiative, Center for Hospice Care (CHC) was linked with Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) in 2008. The goal of the partnership is to strengthen the health care system in Uganda by providing education, training, mentorship and support to ensure consistent standards for Palliative Care (PC). It also supports advocacy at all levels to strengthen collaborations and networking among PC providers, as well as promoting the formation of PCAU district branches to ensure that support is readily accessible to all PC professionals in locations close to their workplaces.

One of the key elements of the partnership is to organize internships in Uganda for Notre Dame students in both palliative and spiritual care. This ongoing program has been made possible thanks to support from the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Hanna O’Brien, a College of Science Pre-Professional Studies and Anthropology double major at Notre Dame, was the first palliative care student intern to Uganda during the summer of 2010. She returned in 2011. The Institute also funded spiritual care internships for Notre Dame Master of Divinity students Ben and Mary Ann Wilson in 2011.

Other internship opportunities with PCAU for pre-medical, social work, nursing, spiritual care, psychology education and other students from recognized academic institutions are in the development phase. Students will be placed in member organizations with established PC services in Uganda which are located across the country. These sites will provide an opportunity to obtain practical experience as well as reinforce or “test” their personal values. Available sites include: Hospice Africa Uganda, Mobile Hospice Mbuzu, Little Hospice Hoima, The Mildmay Center, Hospice Jinja, Hospice Toro, Hospice Ngora, Hospice at Home Amuri, Kagando Hospital Palliative Care program, Arua Regional Referral Hospital, Kibuli Mobile Palliative Care program and Kawempe Home Care program. Interns will be placed according to objectives of their field of study, the needs of the intern, as well as the need of the hosting organization.

To learn more about internship opportunities in Uganda, contact Denis Kidde, International Programs Representative for the Hospice Foundation at 574.277.4860 or kiddde@centerforhospice.org.
Choose to Care – Join the Circle of Caring

After five years, our Circle of Caring continues to reflect the warm, generous spirit that is a hallmark of our community. Thanks to our donors’ benevolence, Hospice Foundation can fulfill the promise of providing medical, spiritual and emotional support to all those in need – regardless of their ability to pay. Each Circle of Caring member receives benefits based on annual cumulative giving levels.

Chairman Circle
$10,000
• Private breakfast, lunch or dinner with President/CEO and COO
• Two tickets to the 29th Annual Helping Hands Award Dinner on May 1, 2013*
• A VIP event invitation
• Year in Review publication
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

President’s Society
$5,000
• Exclusive annual lunch for President Society members
• Two tickets to the 29th Annual Helping Hands Award Dinner on May 1, 2013*
• A VIP event invitation
• Year in Review publication
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

Helping Hands Society
$1,000
• Two tickets to the 29th Annual Helping Hands Award Dinner on May 1, 2013*
• A VIP event invitation
• Year in Review publication
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

Heart of Hospice Club
$500
• A VIP event invitation
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

Caregiver’s Alliance
$250
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

*Complimentary tickets will be provided to those who join or renew their membership by January 31, 2013.

Hospice Foundation Calendar of Events

We look forward to your participation in and support of these important events. Please check our web site, www.foundationforhospice.org, for more information and event dates throughout the year.

February 2013
• National Community Relations Month

March 2013
• National Social Worker’s Month
www.naswdc.org
• March 3-9 Patient Safety Awareness Week
www.npsf.org
• March 30 National Doctor’s Day
www.doctorsday.org

April 2013
• April 14-20 Volunteers Week
• April 16 CHC Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
• April 25-28 NHPCO Management & Leadership Conference
www.nhpco.org

May 2013
• May 1 Nurses Day
• May 1 Helping Hands Award Dinner

June 2013
• June 7-9 Camp Evergreen
• June 10 National CNA Home Health Aides Day

August 2013
• August 11 Walk for Hospice
www.walkmichianaforhospice.com

September 2013
• September 15 Bike Michiana for Hospice
www.bikemichianaforhospice.com

Choose to Care – Join the Circle of Caring

After five years, our Circle of Caring continues to reflect the warm, generous spirit that is a hallmark of our community. Thanks to our donors’ benevolence, Hospice Foundation can fulfill the promise of providing medical, spiritual and emotional support to all those in need – regardless of their ability to pay. Each Circle of Caring member receives benefits based on annual cumulative giving levels.

Chairman Circle
$10,000
• Private breakfast, lunch or dinner with President/CEO and COO
• Two tickets to the 29th Annual Helping Hands Award Dinner on May 1, 2013*
• A VIP event invitation
• Year in Review publication
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

President’s Society
$5,000
• Exclusive annual lunch for President Society members
• Two tickets to the 29th Annual Helping Hands Award Dinner on May 1, 2013*
• A VIP event invitation
• Year in Review publication
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

Helping Hands Society
$1,000
• Two tickets to the 29th Annual Helping Hands Award Dinner on May 1, 2013*
• A VIP event invitation
• Year in Review publication
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

Heart of Hospice Club
$500
• A VIP event invitation
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

Caregiver’s Alliance
$250
• Recognition in Crossroads quarterly magazine

*Complimentary tickets will be provided to those who join or renew their membership by January 31, 2013.
The Past, Present and Future of Compassionate Care

Center for Hospice Care

Approximately 150 people can share the claim that they were instrumental in forming the organization that has since become Center for Hospice Care (CHC). The time was the late 1970s and there was growing interest in a new concept called hospice care. The idea had come to New Haven, Connecticut via Great Britain in 1974. Four years later, six organizations in St. Joseph County were working together or on parallel tracks to found an organization locally to provide specialized care for those in need of hospice care. The articles of incorporation for Hospice of St. Joseph County, Inc. were filed in June 1978. The dues were $2 per person.

By number of patients served, the organization had served 29 patients. From those 29 patients in a single county, the number of people and the area served by CHC has grown significantly. Last year, the organization served 5,500 patients in Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marshall, St. Joseph and St. Anne Counties from facilities in South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart and Plymouth. By number of patients served, Center for Hospice Care ranks in the top 5% of the more than 5,500 hospice programs in the U.S. On an annualized basis from 1980 through 2012, CHC served 24,545 patients. Nearly 30% of those were served in the past four years alone.

Murray traces the organization’s growth to three significant events. “We opened our Plymouth location in 1995 and it was the first time we went outside St. Joseph County. The first time we went across the street, as it were. It was the result of being invited there by people in the community.” Ownership of a South Bend facility, and the first Hospice House in the area in 2006, is the second such event. The third was having the Elkhart General Hospital hospice program given to CHC in 2005, which increased census to a size that warranted building a new Elkhart-based facility in 2006, which includes a second Hospice house.

He also points to the fact that CHC is not a newcomer in the hospice world. “We are a hospice provider. We were the first in our area and the second hospice provider in the state of Indiana.” He noted, “We have not been afraid to grow through expansion into other counties.” He added that other key factors in the organizations progress are “the terrific relationships and support we have received from the local medical community. From the start, local hospitals referred their patients to us rather than begin their own hospice programs. We have had the financial support of the community as well, which has allowed us to grow and meet the needs of our patients whether they had insurance or not.”

From the beginning, CHC made the promise that no one eligible for hospice services would be turned away—regardless of their ability to pay. Diligent financial management of agency resources, fundraising events and donor support has allowed that promise to be kept, even in challenging financial times.

Challenging—as or at least unpredictable—financial times are something Murray sees continuing as well as healthcare/human services organizations such as CHC ready themselves for the changes wrought by healthcare reform, including anticipated Medicare cuts. “The question is going to be how much of the cuts will actually happen and how often,” Murray noted. “We know for sure that we will be reimbursed less for what we will be reimbursed less for what we promise to be kept, even in unpredictable financial times.”

Hospice care is almost universally loved. Our approval rating locally is between 98-99%—name any other industry with that kind of rating. The only negative we hear is that people wish they knew earlier about the care and support CHC can offer or that they had called sooner.”

- Mark Murray

Care Timeline

Hospice organizational steering committee formed; Articles of incorporation for Hospice of St. Joseph County filed 1978

Tom Burzynski becomes President/CEO 1980

First Walk for Hospice held 1980

Served 350 patients and their families — a 50% increase over 1979 1990

Plymouth office opened 1991

First Bike Michiana held 1994

First Caring Award given to Hospice 1995

First Hospice House opened in Mishawaka 1996

First John E. Krueger, M.D., Hospice Medical Director (l), and Tom Shaw, Volunteer Chairman of the Board (r), present Michael DeCicco with the 1995 John E. Krueger, M.D., Hospice Caring Award.

First Hospice House opened in Elkhart 2000

Elkhart General gives its hospice Program to CHC, Life Transition Center, a community bereavement center opens 2005

Elkhart Campus built 2008

New name and logo revealed — Center for Hospice Care

Construction of Elkhart County Hospice House begins 2010

1. Exterior of the Cedar Street office
2. Rendering of a patient room at the Roseland Hospice House
3. Exterior of the Elkhart Campus Hospice House
4. First Helping Hands Award Dinner held
5. Tom Burzynski becomes President/CEO
In 2017 Mark Murray became the longest-tenured President/CEO in the history of Center for Hospice Care, his 15 years just surpassing that of his predecessor, Tom Burzynski who held the position for 14. “It doesn’t seem like it’s been that long,” Murray said, although he notes that he’s now been CEO for 47% of the organization’s history and an employee for 74% of its existence.

If those statistics give you the idea that Murray is something of a numbers guy, you’d be correct. He can quote copious amounts of data relating to CHC and national hospice trends. He served a three-year term as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) from January 2011 thru December 2012 and has been integral to the organization’s work during that time.

NHPCO is the oldest and largest membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs in the US. Its members care for more than 90% of the nation’s 1.65 million hospice patients (figures as of 2011). In addition to his role as NHPCO chair, Murray has been involved in 31 annual member group of hospice CEOs from across the U.S., called the National Hospice Executive Roundtable sharing best practices, which has benefited CHC. “I have ‘stolen’ ideas with impunity,” he said with a smile. “I have taken, without guilt, ideas and service lines other organizations have found successful. They have also gladly copied ideas from us.” He went on to say that this is a key purpose of the Roundtable and “we have been able to bypass the pilot stage on some important initiatives already knowing that they work. In the end, our patients benefit greatly from all this.”

Murray found the idea of “selling a product that no one wants” irresistible and joined what was then Hospice of the South, Joseph County, Inc., as Director of Community Relations and Fundraising and became vice president within six months. Despite the changing of children offered by the hospice and palliative care industry, one thing that has remained constant, he said, is the feedback he receives from reviewing surveys completed by patient family members. “I save those for a personal level. “I have worked in the hospice agency care staff. “Working as a team, it all comes together to give our patients and their loved ones remarkable service.” It’s not exactly on target with his original high school career goal of going to URC and studying cinematography.

Instead, he obtained a degree in public and corporate communications from Butler University, leading him to a career in marketing, advertising and broadcasting.

Murray found the idea of “selling a product that no one wants” irresistible and joined what was then Hospice of the South, Joseph County, Inc., as Director of Community Relations and Fundraising and became vice president within six months. Despite the changing of children offered by the hospice and palliative care industry, one thing that has remained constant, he said, is the feedback he receives from reviewing surveys completed by patient family members. “I save those for a personal level. “I have worked in the hospice agency care staff. “Working as a team, it all comes together to give our patients and their loved ones remarkable service.” It’s not exactly on target with his original high school career goal of going to URC and studying cinematography.

Instead, he obtained a degree in public and corporate communications from Butler University, leading him to a career in marketing, advertising and broadcasting.

Murray found the idea of “selling a product that no one wants” irresistible and joined what was then Hospice of the South, Joseph County, Inc., as Director of Community Relations and Fundraising and became vice president within six months. Despite the changing of children offered by the hospice and palliative care industry, one thing that has remained constant, he said, is the feedback he receives from reviewing surveys completed by patient family members. “I save those for a personal level. “I have worked in the hospice agency care staff. “Working as a team, it all comes together to give our patients and their loved ones remarkable service.” It’s not exactly on target with his original high school career goal of going to URC and studying cinematography.

Instead, he obtained a degree in public and corporate communications from Butler University, leading him to a career in marketing, advertising and broadcasting.
"We were always interested in investing in the community and worthwhile organizations," recalls Dorothy (Dot) Wiekamp of herself and her late husband Darwin (Dar), who passed away in 2008 at the age of 94. "And hospice means a great deal to so many people." Remembering her own sister Mary’s experience as a Center for Hospice Care patient during her final days, Dot noted that those who cared for Mary were so very helpful throughout that time and she and her late husband have supported CHC ever since.

Dar and Dot, as they affectionately became known to the community, have meant a great deal to so many non-profit organizations in Northern Indiana. They have been particularly devoted to the First United Methodist Church of Mishawaka (where Dot has been a member since birth). They provided funding for construction of the Center for Homeless, an auditorium at the Northern Indiana Center for History, Wiekamp Hall at IU South Bend, the Bethel College Athletic Center, the Dorothy Wiekamp Demonstration Kitchen at Ivy Tech Community College and the Schwartz Wiekamp Medical Center in Mishawaka. But just as important as their philanthropy, they served on numerous boards throughout the area, giving of their time and talents to improve the quality of living in the community they loved.

The Wiekamps were an all-American success story. Growing up during the Great Depression and from modest means, they built what was to become Valley American Bank, one of the region’s largest independent banks. "We had a lot of good things happen. And Dar did a lot of things right. He loved people and did right by them."

She describes their background as solidly middle-class. "We were working people. As a teenager, I got a job and a paycheck – my first one was $15 – so I came home and the first thing my grandmother told me was 'Now, Dot, get a little purse and take $1.50 out of it for giving back,'" Dot said. "I grew up and was given a wonderful life by my grandmother, grandfather and mother and was taught the need to share. Dar came from the same background, so it came naturally."

And as they shared what they had received, both the Wiekamps experienced what Dot describes as the "joy of giving." "When you give, you end up getting it all back," she said. "Dar was very conscious of that. He didn’t give to get recognition or honors. That just wasn’t his nature."

"I guess we are better givers than takers," Mrs. Wiekamp noted, adding that she and her husband were very blessed to have "a tiny bit of the American Dream... and when we got, we shared it with everyone. No one does it by themselves... we had a lot of help," she noted, pointing upward. "You do so many things," she added, in reference to the couple’s philanthropic support, "but it’s not more than we are expected to do."
To further our mission to improve the quality of life for those we serve regardless of one’s ability to pay, the Hospice Foundation has implemented a donor giving program. Circle of Caring. Membership in the Circle of Caring enables donors to identify the level of their annual pledged support. To donate or to learn more about the Circle of Caring, please contact Mike Wargo at 574-243-2059 or wargom@centerforhospice.org.

Recognition in this issue covers gifts received from April 1, 2011 to October 31, 2012.

The Hospice Foundation is grateful for the generosity of the many groups that support its mission through their independent fundraising efforts, grantsmanship and donations. Although we cannot recognize everyone, we pledge to take this opportunity to recognize the following and thank all of those in the community who support our agency.

The Niles Haunted House Scream Park donated a portion of its 2012 proceeds totaling $500 to CHC. In four years, the park has donated a total of $5,450.

Christ the King Catholic Church has donated a total of $2,450. In four years, the park donated a portion of its 2012 proceeds totaling $500 to CHC. In four years, the park has donated a portion of its 2012 proceeds totaling $500 to CHC.

The 14th annual Joseph E. Smith Memorial Golf Outing, sponsored by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA), raised $4,000 for CHC. Through 2012 the golf outing has raised over 720,000 dollars to help support CHC patients.

North Central Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA) raised $4,000 for CHC. Through 2012 the golf outing has raised over 720,000 dollars to help support CHC patients.

If you are interested in joining the Circle of Caring, please contact Mike Wargo at 574.243.2059 or wargom@centerforhospice.org.
To further our mission to improve the quality of life for those we serve regardless of one’s ability to pay, the Hospice Foundation implemented a donor giving program: Circle of Membership. Membership in the Circle of Membership is voluntary. Donations of any size to the Circle of Membership and The Hospice Foundation approximate their appreciation and honor in a member of the following sections; Recognition in this issue covers gifts received from April 1, 2011 to October 31, 2012.
In Memory

The following gifts were made to the Hospice Foundation between 6/1/2012 and 9/30/2012. We are very grateful for these gifts as they enable us to fulfill our mission to improve the quality of living.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you wish to report an error or omission, please call our Development Office at 800.413.9083. Any corrections will be in the next issue of CROSSROADS.

The following gifts were made to the Hospice Foundation between 6/1/2012 and 9/30/2012. We are very grateful for these gifts as they enable us to fulfill our使命 to improve the quality of living.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you wish to report an error or omission, please call our Development Office at 800.413.9083. Any corrections will be in the next issue of CROSSROADS.
In Memory (continued)
In Memory of Mr. Joshua J. Stewart
In Memory of Margaret (Peggy) Schwark
In Memory of Jill M. Weber
In Memory of Michala, Andrea and Joe Zappia
In Memory of David (Dave) E. Schnell
In Memory of Elizabeth H. Schlender
Carpenters Local Union #413
In Memory of Ronald (Ron) August Savoie
Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Schwabenlander
E. Jean Mills
Joyce Miller and Jerry Fulmer
Elaine and Tom Laluzerne
Rita and Jack Gustafson
In Memory of Florence M. Sargent
Dan Dygert
In Memory of Ruth E. Sanders
Joan K. Fahey
Helen Johnson
Ms. Barbara J. Hyink
In Memory of William A. Shaffer
Ms. Gail J. Wing
In Memory of Hershel Seymour
Mr. and Mrs. Rod Oakes
Ms. Shirley A. Spicher
Frances and Wayne Newport
Shirley Wise
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Schymanski
Charleen McIntosh
Leila and Bill Lawson
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Kelsch
Mary and Fred Bucher
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Chase
Rosemary and Marquis Anderson
In Memory of Larry F. Slabaugh
Barbara and Ed Cathey
Veronica and Greg Singleton
Sue and Gerry Phelps
In Memory of Joseph (JB) B. Sills
Ms. Annette Plajer
Linda and Dennis Miller
Mrs. Nancy Wieczork
Rannells Funeral Home, Inc.
Daniel Rannells
Mrs. Renata M. Kazmierczak
In Memory of Shkeep (Skeeter) Siade
In Memory of Arnold Rex Shutts
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hueni
Ms. Julia Rody
Mary Jean Pittman
Barbara Mumby
Doreen Mesecar
Peter M. LaCava, Jr
Tina and Dave Krege
Carolyn and Lynn Kaser
Kathy and John Kantorowski
Dean Hupp
Ann Gustafson
Vern and Max Gretencord
Gene Goddard
Jody and Wayne Fleming
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Englesberg
Lyle Crist
Darla and Michael Crabb
Jenene and Jim Coleman
Phyllis and Joe Catanzarite
Debbie and Brian Campoli
Cindy Brown
Smiechowski
Mrs. Wilma J. Smiechowski
Lori and Mike Kerr
Myrna and Frank Hudson
In Memory of Doris I. Sliter
Velda and Larry Wesolowski
Underground Pipe & Valve, Inc.
Larry Ross and Country Garden, Inc.
Ancon Construction Co., Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory S. Downes
In Memory of Alex Slaby
Ms. Jill Slegar
In Memory of Robert (Bob) G. Slagle
Jim and the All-Star Award Coordination Co.
Daimler-Benz & Trumark
Linda and Mike Brown
In Memory of John Karowski
Mary and Gregory S. Tommes
Clara, Helen
Li, verscharen and Company
Denny and George Lojko
Mary McGlone
Lisa Robbelen
Arthur Wintergreen & Company
Angie and Harvey Dale
Phyllis and John
Barry and Lakey
Beth and Dan Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Hockay
Jerri and Mylind Moberly
Jim and Carol Whitten
In Memory of Gary (Gary) L. Smiley
In Memory of Margaret M. Smolenski
American Floral Memorial Union #227
Friends and Family of Mary Smolenski
Mr. and Mrs. Joanne
Peter Kelley
Linda and John Arnt
Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Maitzen
Mark Hockaday
Mr. and Mrs. Harold R. Maitzen
Karen Martin
Mrs. John H. Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Krause
Mary and Dan Joslyn
Nancy Coleman
Jill and Butch Cole
Mrs. Ruth A. Bemiller
Mr. Theodore M. Alexander, Jr
In Memory of Edna Louise Taylor
Mrs. Rose M. Plank
Martha and Dan Milliken
James Lindsey
Mr. and Mrs. DeVon Jesswein
Sarah and Don Feldman
Be a Part of Hospice Foundation’s 2012 Annual Appeal…
Join the Circle of Caring and Start a Ripple.

The impact of each dollar donated spreads through our eight-county service area. From patient medication and grief counseling to providing in-home care, your gift makes a difference in the lives of our patients and their loved ones. Perhaps most importantly, it comes at a time when caring is most needed.