BRIDGING CARE AND COMMUNITY

Center for Hospice Care

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From our leadership

Dear Friends,

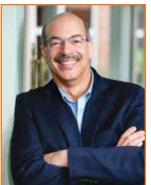
At Center for Hospice Care and Hospice Foundation, we have always believed in the power of connection. Connection between patients and caregivers, donors and communities, and compassion and innovation. This belief has guided our mission, "to improve the quality of living," and our vision, "to be the premier hospice and palliative care organization for all end-of-life issues."

With that in mind, we are excited to introduce you to *Connections*, an integrated publication that joins the best of our former magazines, *Choices* and *Crossroads*. This evolution reflects our commitment to creating a more unified voice – one that not only highlights the exceptional care provided by Center for Hospice Care but also the incredible support made possible through the generosity of Hospice Foundation's donors and partners.

Why the change? For years, *Choices* has served as a resource for the medical community, referral sources and families, while *Crossroads* has been a stewardship piece for donors and friends of Hospice Foundation. As our organization continues to evolve, we recognize our audiences – whether they are caregivers, medical professionals, community members or supporters – are part of the same shared story. By merging these publications, we aim to celebrate that connection and present a comprehensive picture of our mission in action.

This integrated publication will serve as a platform to:

• Share powerful patient and family stories



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John Mastrojohn, III President/CEO

that exemplify the compassion and dignity that define hospice care.

- Highlight donor and volunteer contributions, showing how generosity drives innovation and supports families in their most difficult moments.
- Showcase global partnerships, like our collaboration with the Palliative Care Association of Uganda, that extend the reach of palliative care to communities worldwide.
- Offer updates on programs and initiatives, such as our Center for Education & Advance Care Planning, which is shaping the future of care through education and advance directive initiatives.

Each issue will focus on the people, programs and partnerships that bring our mission to life, reminding us all of the profound impact we can have when we work together.

We are so grateful for your support – whether as a partner in care, a donor, a volunteer or simply a member of our community who believes in the importance of compassionate end-of-life care. We hope you find inspiration, connection and purpose in the stories shared here.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Together, we are improving the quality of living for individuals and families near and far.

With gratitude,



Mike Wargo Chief Operating Officer



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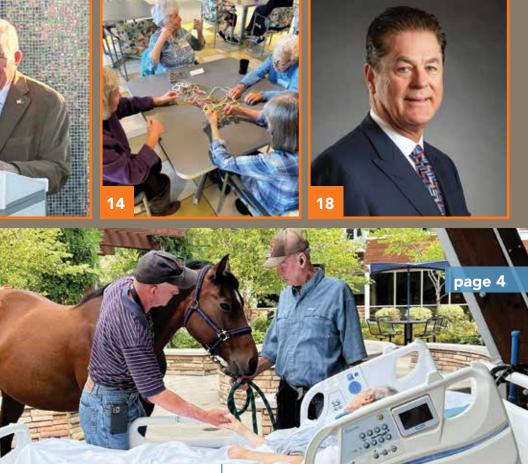
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MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Out-of-the-Ordinary Care



Quality of life means something different to every person. For a of Center for Hospice Care patient and her family, it meant the opportunity to visit with her horse one last time. Roberta Bever's family asked if they could bring her Quarter Horse, Foxy, to see Roberta at CHC's Mishawaka inpatient unit, Raclin House. The answer was "yes," and while Raclin House has seen its fair share of canine and feline visitors, this was the first time CHC has welcomed an equine visitor. Hospice care is all about meeting the needs of the whole person. That includes their physical, social, spiritual and emotional needs. Being able to offer moments like these to patients and families is important. Staff initially talked with the family about bringing

their dogs to visit; however, one of them gets car sick and wouldn't be able to make the ride to the facility. Somehow, within this conversation, it was mentioned that Foxy, Roberta's horse, should make the trip. Plans developed and it was decided that this was going to happen.

The visit wasn't without some concern on the part of CHC's care team. It's hard to know how animals will respond in new settings, especially when seeing their favorite people at the end of their lives. "I was worried about the confinement she was in and that we wouldn't be able to control her," Jim, Roberta's husband, shared. "However, Foxy was perfect that day. You couldn't ask for anything better." For CHC staff, watching Foxy's visit with



Roberta on that clear, sunny September afternoon

was like watching a therapy horse in action. Foxy and Roberta were spending their last moments She was calm, collected and present. "We went together, Roberta knew her horse was near. "I'm so thankful you guys let me do that for her," Jim around to the arch at Raclin House, and she just stood there and waited for Roberta to come out said. "She needed that to finalize her life." on the bed. She was just perfectly still," Jim A lot of things have changed for the Bever family continued. "She knew she was waiting for Roberta. since Foxy's visit to Raclin House last fall. Roberta's Call it telepathy, but she knew that Roberta was death a few days later wasn't unexpected. Neither there someplace. She waited for her to come out." was Jim's death early in 2025. He had been Foxy visited with CHC staff as she waited patiently struggling with his own health issues before while Roberta's bed was wheeled out onto the Roberta's death. Foxy now resides at Roberta's patio. While the patio had to be unlike any horse granddaughter's farm and has bonded with another show grounds, field or arena Foxy had ever retired mare there. She enjoys spending time with encountered, she seemed to know the family her new friend in the pasture they share, taking in the sun and lots of treats from the great-grand gathering was a special occasion. The doors from the Raclin House sunroom opened and staff wheeled kids. She'll stay here until it's time for her to be Roberta's bed onto the patio. "When I saw Foxy reunited with Roberta and Jim. see her," Jeff recalled, "You could see the genuine Read more about Roberta's life by scanning the concern come over Foxy's face. We held mom's QR code. hand up to Foxy's nose and she sniffed her and neighed for her a little bit. She then settled down, like she was just visiting with her one last time. That was Foxy's way of saying goodbye." Even at the end of life, when our loved ones aren't responsive, we understand that they sense much



Family photos courtesy of the Bever family

more than we may realize. That's why, even when



Kaleidoscope Brings **Palliative Care Home**

What is palliative care? The formal definition is: "medical and related care provided to a patient with a serious, life-threatening or terminal illness that is not intended to provide curative treatment but rather to manage symptoms, relieve pain and discomfort, improve quality of life and meet the emotional, social and spiritual needs of the patient." That's a mouthful! Let's help simplify that.

If you're getting older or living with a serious or chronic illness, you may be receiving care from a primary care doctor and one or more specialists. The care they provide is essential, and palliative care can help supplement that by helping to manage symptoms, improve comfort and quality of life, and help your family or caregiver as well. Think of palliative care as a medical specialty that focuses on YOU, not your illness.

comprehensive palliative care assessment that addresses physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs. It also includes an assessment of the caregiver's needs and concerns. Once enrolled in Kaleidoscope, our staff helps coordinate care with the patient's primary physician and specialists to ensure their needs and their caregiver's needs are being met.

The Kaleidoscope program also offers communitybased referrals to support groups and grief/ bereavement services as needed. Our staff will cover goals of care conversations and advance care planning, including the completion of POST (physician orders for scope of treatment) forms. Our experienced, compassionate staff will talks to patients and caregivers about the disease processes and progression.



The Center for Palliative Care has been providing this care at their outpatient clinic since 2017. But what about those patients who need more intensive support? Our Kaleidoscope program, officially launched in June of 2024, is a homebased palliative care service that offers people with serious advanced illness the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

Kaleidoscope gives patients the most complete, comprehensive care possible. Once somebody is referred to the program by their provider, we schedule an in-home appointment to provide a

Kaleidoscope offers an added layer of support, no matter where a patient is in their journey with a serious or chronic illness and no matter where they call home. It can be confusing to manage lots of medications and appointments, so it's helpful to have an expert available to keep everyone on the same page.

If you or a loved one has a serious advanced illness, let us help you live your life to the fullest - ask your provider if a referral to Kaleidoscope would help you better manage your symptoms. Referrals begin with a simple call from your physician to 574-367-2469.

Experience and Expertise: What Sets CHC Apart?

Center for Hospice Care (CHC) began serving avoid health crises that require hospitalization. patients in St. Joseph County in 1980. Since then HeartWize is a cutting-edge program offering our service area has grown to include Elkhart, patients with advanced heart disease an option Fulton, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Marshall, for optimal management of their condition. When Porter and Starke Counties. More importantly, in patients with maximally treated heart disease those 45 plus years we have cared for over 47,000 would like to avoid further re-hospitalization and patients and their loved ones through hospice, are not candidates for further surgical procedures, home health and palliative care services as well HeartWize can assist the physician, patient and as providing grief counseling and community family to manage symptoms at home. BreatheEazy education. But outside of experience and longevity, offers patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary what sets CHC apart from other hospice disease (COPD) an option for optimal management of their care. Like HeartWize, BreatheEazy can organizations in our community? assist the physician, patient and family manage **Freestanding Medicare-certified Hospice** symptoms of COPD at home.

Inpatient Units

There are only seven freestanding Medicarecertified hospice inpatient units in the state of Indiana, and CHC owns and operates two of them. Esther's House in Elkhart is a seven-bed facility situated on 11 beautiful acres providing a nature-filled, warm, welcoming home away from home for patients and their loved ones. In addition to a family room, kitchen, spiritual reflection room and children's play area, there are walking trails throughout the campus.

Mishawaka's Ernestine M. Raclin House is a 12-bed unit nestled along the northern bank of the St. Joseph River. Each patient room faces the river and has access for the patient bed to roll out onto the patio. Raclin House also includes a family room, kitchen, spiritual reflection room and rooms specifically designed for teenage and child visitors.

BreatheEazy and HeartWize

CHC's proprietary specialty programs, HeartWize and BreatheEazy, are designed to help patients



Full-time Hospice Physicians

CHC is the only hospice organization in the area to employ full-time hospice medical staff, consisting of both physicians and nurse practitioners. While many hospice physicians in the area hold full-time positions with other healthcare organizations or have their own practice, CHC has two full-time physicians dedicated to the care of their hospice patients. Our medical director is fellowshiptrained and board-certified in hospice and palliative medicine. In addition, we have a board-certified pediatrician on staff, making us the only hospice organization in the region that accepts pediatric hospice patients.

These are just a few of the differences Center for Hospice Care offers. When choosing hospice care, remember there is only one Center for Hospice Care - be sure to ask for us by name. All hospice organizations are not the same!

39th Helping Hands Award Dinner Honors Rev. Edward "Monk" Malloy

"I don't deserve this kind of recognition, but I feel good about it!" Those words wrapped up Reverend Edward "Monk" Malloy's acceptance speech at the 39th Helping Hands Award Dinner on August 7, 2024.

While he may downplay his contributions to Notre Dame, our local community and the world, Fr. Malloy was a truly deserving honoree. A model of compassion and dedication, he transformed the University of Notre Dame into a beacon of service-oriented education as the 16th president. Under his leadership, Notre Dame expanded its

several stories about their relationship with Monk as well as Center for Hospice Care (CHC). Their connection to CHC also goes back many years and includes Lou receiving the Helping Hands Award in 2000.

Entertainment for the cocktail reception was provided by the Fischoff grand prize-winning Cerus Quartet. In addition, Michiana Rising Star winner Janet Hines-Norris amazed the crowd with an impromptu rendition of "The Wind Beneath My Wings" during the dinner. Following Rev. Malloy's acceptance speech, CHC President/CEO John











outreach programs, emphasizing the importance of giving back to society.

Ever humble, Fr. Malloy spent most of the cocktail reception greeting guests and taking pictures with them in front of a backdrop. During his acceptance speech he downplayed his accomplishments several times, instead giving credit to others who helped him on his journey from Turkey Thicket Playground in Washington, D.C. to President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame.

The evening was hosted by dinner chairs Carmen and Lou Nanni, longtime friends and colleagues of Fr. Malloy's. They welcomed attendees to the Gillespie Center at Hilton Garden Inn and told

Mastrojohn, III asked all in attendance to help ensure those in need of hospice care will always be able to receive it and introduced a paddle up. Ably led by auctioneer Reggie Rivers, the paddle up portion of the evening raised more than \$100,000. In total, the 39th Helping Hands Award Dinner became the most successful single fundraising event ever for CHC, bringing in over \$550,000.

Learn more about the event by scanning the QR code.







Families Honor Loved Ones at Elkhart Gardens of Remembrance

The Center for Hospice Care (CHC) Elkhart Campus was designed to provide patients and their loved ones a peaceful and serene environment. The 11-acre campus is home to Esther's House, a beautiful garden area, serene walking paths and a small pond with koi. thought it may seem contradictory, grief and joy do co-exist."

The evening was a chance for loved ones to gather together, share memories and see the bricks in the garden pathway, each one a lasting memorial to somebody special. Following John's remarks,



The Gardens of Remembrance and Renewal also gives loved ones an opportunity to memorialize their loved one with personalized items such as 4" x 8" or 8" x 8" bricks. Each year on the first Tuesday in June, CHC hosts an event to dedicate newly donated items. Last year's event took place on June 4 and was the first for President/CEO John Mastrojohn, III. As he noted in his remarks, "We come together to remember and renew... to experience a delicate balance really, a blend of somber reflection and also celebration. And

bereavement counselor Kelly Eberhart spoke and then led those gathered in a litany entitled "We Remember Them."

This year's event will take place on June 3. If you

would like to donate a memorial item in memory of a loved one, visit FoundationForHospice.org/ elkhart-campus or scan the QR code. Donations received by May 9th will be installed in time for the event.





Remembering Those Who Served at Veterans Tribute Ceremony

Nearly one quarter of Americans dying today are veterans. In order to serve them as they served us, we became a We Honor Veterans partner, integrating veteran-specific information into our staff and volunteer training. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness among veterans of the end-of-life services and benefits available to them.

As an extension of this program, the Captain Robert J. Hiler, Jr. Veterans Memorial was constructed on the grounds of CHC's Mishawaka campus. The memorial is a place to reflect and remember loved ones who served.

Each October, Center for Hospice Care hosts a Veterans Memorial Tribute Ceremony to dedicate new memorial items donated in memory or in honor of a veteran. On October 8, 2024, Lieutenant General Robert A. Tiebout, retired United States Marine Corp., spoke to those gathered of the





importance of honoring all veterans, whether they served in combat, were stationed in the United States or served during the Cold War era.

According to Tiebout, "As I stand here, I just want to tell every one of you veterans how much we appreciate what you've done for this country. Every one of you had a piece in it... You've had a part in making this country safe so that all of us can stay here today and enjoy our life and our freedoms." Following Gen. Tiebout's moving words, CHC Chaplain Steve Nani dedicated the bricks and plaques donated over the past year. Attendees then made their way inside for a reception.

If you would like to donate an item for the veterans' memorial, scan the QR code. This year's event will take place on Tuesday, October 14, at Center for Hospice Care's Mishawaka Campus.



Car Enthusiasts Gather to Share Their Passion

Lube-a-Thon for Hospice Celebrates 19 Years of Oil Changes

Everybody knows somebody who loves cool cars – whether they own one, enjoy working on them or just can't help themselves when it comes to talking about them. Center for Hospice Care's Coffee Cruise-in for a Cause is the perfect event for them!

CHC hosts a Coffee Cruise-in each spring and fall where car, truck and motorcycle owners can show their vehicle, while enthusiasts can come out to look, talk with other enthusiasts and even vote for the Best of Show vehicle.

Vehicles are judged and awards are given for Best Car, Best Truck and Best Motorcycle. Best of Show is decided by attendees who vote for their favorite by placing tickets in the box located on or near the vehicle. Each vote costs the attendee a \$1 donation to CHC. If you really want a vehicle to win – even your own – you can make it happen. We encourage ballot stuffing!

Donuts and coffee are free for everybody who comes to the show. We're also graced with music, compliments of T & T Entertainment, who are generous enough to donate their time and talent as DJ for the day.

Last year's two shows combined featured 90 vehicles on display. Many of those came from our long-time friends, the Michiana Mustangs Club and St. Joe Valley Street Rods. If you know of, or are a part of any club, we would love to include you as well!

We just had our spring show, but our fall show will take place on Sunday, October 5. Staging begins at 7:30am with judging beginning at 10am. You can display a car for a donation of at least \$10. Admission for the general public to come out and enjoy the cars is free. If you would like more information about the event, contact Red Fisher at 574.243.3119 or <u>FisherR@cfhcare.org</u>. To register your vehicle, scan the QR code below.









If you've ever visited Tom's Car Care Center in South Bend, you know the people there always treat you well, greet you with a smile and deliver great service whether you're getting your oil changed, grabbing a bite to eat at the Coffee Spot Cafe or getting your car washed at the Water Works Car Wash. That great attitude and exceptional service is never more evident than on the day of Lube-a-Thon for Hospice, when they donate all proceeds from oil changes as well as their staff's time to Center for Hospice Care.

Center 10 Minute Oil Change

the WATER WARKS car wash

The Coffee Spot Cafe

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The 19th Lube-a-Thon for Hospice took place on July 26, 2025, and the staff performed nearly 150 oil changes! Cars were lined up when the garage bays opened at 7am and continued to pull in throughout the day. Participants were able to get a full-service oil change and basic car wash for a donation of just \$45 – tremendous savings over a typical oil change!





Tom's Car Care Center wouldn't be able to host this spectacular event if it weren't for the support of their oil providers, RelaDyne and DuraMax, who donate all of the oil for the day. Their support goes beyond the oil though, as they provide give aways and send a representative who helps make sure everything runs smoothly. It's a long day for the staff who are on the go from the time doors open, never missing a beat.

Last year's event raised over \$10,000 for Center for Hospice Care, making the total raised over \$111,000 in 19 years. The difference they have made in helping improve the quality of living in our community is immeasurable.

Mark your calendars for July 25 and join us for the 20th Lube-a-Thon for Hospice. Get your oil changed, enjoy a delicious lunch, get your car shined up in the car wash and celebrate the wonderful people at Tom's Car Care Center!

A Village United in Caring

It's been said it takes a village to raise a child. The same can be said of caring for those with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Milton Village, located in Roseland, was created to do just that. It's the result of a collaboration between Milton Adult Day Services and Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana (ALZNI), which provides services for those with Alzheimer's or dementia and support for their caregivers. ALZNI is a program of REAL Services Inc. that is dedicated to family support, education, advocacy and raising community awareness.

Milton Adult Day Services is a Center for Hospice Care program created to provide a safe, caring and compassionate environment for people needing assistance during the day. It gives guests the ability to choose which activities are most meaningful to them, which allows guests to flourish.

Milton Village was created in cooperation with the Netherlands-based Vivium Group, a nursing home management team whose objective was to create a small-scale living environment for persons living with dementia. The result is an enclosed complex that fully recreates a Dutch village, complete with a theater, supermarket and other amenities. The village gives guests more regulated independence and less institutionalstyle programming. Called "de Hogeweyk," it's based on seven pillars: favorable surroundings, lifestyle, health, life's pleasures and the meaning of life, formal and informal networks, organization, and social inclusion and emancipation. It is a revolutionary concept in care, and Milton Village is the first of its kind in the United States.

With assistance from the Vivium Group, Center for Hospice Care and REAL Services adapted this concept for use in a daycare setting. There is a pub where guests can watch vintage sporting events, a raised-bed garden area, a putting green, a barber shop/salon and a kitchen area that hosts the baking club. There's even a garage with an old Studebaker on loan from the Studebaker Museum for those who enjoy tinkering around in the garage.

While their loved ones enjoy Milton Adult Day Services' amenities, caregivers can tap into the numerous resources available from Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana. These include a monthly education series, lunch-andlearns, coffee chats, a caregiver lending library and more.

Milton Adult Day Services offers flexible scheduling for caregivers. The facility is open from 7:30 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, and guests need only attend two days a week, although they are welcome as many days the family needs. Five hours of care is available for \$75, which includes meals and snacks. The staff prepares an individualized care plan for each guest, which may include monitoring vitals and health conditions and administering medications. Some insurance plans will help pay for these services.

Caregiver support from Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana are available at no charge.

Educating on End-of-Life Matters

Thanks to the generous support of the Vera Z. Dwyer Charitable Trust, Center for Hospice Care provides education programming to help the community better understand end-of-life topics and educate future healthcare professionals.

One example is a recent community event titled perinatal and pediatric palliative care patients "What's Your Plan? A Practical Chat About the and the importance of advance care planning. Future," which focused on end-of-life planning. One student noted, "While I once believed that Making decisions for the future can be daunting, especially in end-of-life matters, so the event hospice and palliative care was an expiration date, aimed to provide resources to make planning easier. I now see hospice and palliative care as a crucial A panel of trusted local advisors offered their service which allows patients to die surrounded expertise on essential topics such as funeral planning, by loved ones, achieve incredible goals, and estate planning, real estate and insurance. Guests peacefully arrive at death in the comfort of engaged with these professionals, asked them physicians who can prioritize their needs." guestions and gained valuable insights into the Dr. Aimee Heerd, the 2024 Vera Z. Dwyer fellow planning process. The panel included Jamie Hall in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at the IU School of Palmer Funeral Homes, Lindsey Downey from of Medicine, shared similar sentiments during the Edward Jones Financial Advisors, Kirsten Sharpe of annual fellow reception in April. In her remarks, Sharpe Realty, Carrie Young from Young Insurance Dr. Heerd recalled an encounter with a patient's Agency and Kahlyn Ashcraft of THK Law. By the end mother, who expressed gratitude for being there of the session, everyone had a better understanding for her child from birth to death, leaving a lasting of end-of-life planning and the steps they could impact on Dr. Heerd. "I cried," she shared. take to ensure their wishes are carried out.

Preparing the next generation of hospice and palliative care providers is critical to Center for Hospice Care's mission. This includes immersive learning experiences at the undergraduate level. Center for Hospice Care works closely with the University of Notre Dame and Indiana University South Bend on curriculum development, job shadowing opportunities and serving as guest faculty.



In partnership with CHC, Notre Dame again offered the course "Introduction to Hospice and Palliative Care" in 2024. CHC physicians, social workers, chaplains, bereavement counselors and other staff served as faculty. Community collaborators also spoke about the needs of perinatal and pediatric palliative care patients and the importance of advance care planning.

"Despite what is arguably the tragedy of a child dying before his mother, she offered a beautiful testimony of how profound it is to care for those who have a serious illness or are dying. I am grateful to be here among my faculty, who have taught me the science of hospice and palliative care. But truly, we learn the most from our patients and their families." **MOMENTOUS HAPPENINGS**

Roberta's Annual Trip to Uganda Strengthens CHC-PCAU Partnership



For long-time CHC volunteer (and retired staff member), Roberta Spencer, her annual journey to Uganda has become a cherished tradition, reinforcing the deep partnership between the Center for Hospice Care (CHC) and the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU). Through her dedication, Roberta serves as a vital link between the two organizations, supporting programs that bring lasting impact to children and families in need.

This January and February, Roberta spent three weeks in Uganda. A highlight of her trip was supporting the Road to Hope (RTH) Children's Camp, a cornerstone of her visits. At the camp, held from January 27–29, she fostered connections, created joyful moments and witnessed the progress of the children supported on the RTH program, which began in 2012. CHC staff ensures that each child on the program receives a letter

or card from CHC staff or sponsors, conveying encouragement and support. Roberta personally delivered these letters to the children at camp. In return, the children also write back, strengthening these lasting relationships.

Beyond the RTH Camp, Roberta engaged in other impactful activities. Home visits provided deeper insights into RTH children's families' challenges. Roberta also participated in a workshop piloting the Spiritual Caregiver's Guide and attended meetings with key palliative care stakeholders. She also met with advanced diploma in palliative care nursing (ADPCN) students, inspiring these future palliative care professionals, many of whom are supported by the partnership.

The RTH program provides vulnerable child caregivers with education, mentorship and a sense of belonging. Gathering all of the children from across the country



Help Us Reach 100% – Your Gift Will be Matched!

An independent Ugandan newspaper, the Daily Monitor, recently published a story, "How 17-yearold Grace Gonza is parenting her nine siblings," that sheds light on the struggles of vulnerable children in Uganda. After being abandoned by both parents, Grace was forced to leave school and become the sole caregiver for her siblings, facing hunger, lack of medical care and financial hardship. Her heartbreaking story is not unique; it reflects the plight of many young caregivers across Uganda and underscores the need for targeted support.

This is precisely why our CHC - PCAU partnership established the Road to Hope (RTH) program. While many children take on adult responsibilities too soon, RTH uniquely supports child caregivers, ensuring they receive the education needed to become productive young adults.

Now, you can help amplify these efforts through a special matching campaign. Thanks to a generous donor, every dollar you give will be matched up to \$75,000. We are almost 70% of

comes with challenges. The journey to the camp experience deeply rewarding. As the camp concluded, the transformative power of the RTH venue was not without hurdles. Kampala's notorious traffic and last-minute adjustments program was evident. The relationships formed, caused delays, and a necessary tire change on the the mentorship provided and the encouragement first day added to the challenges. Coordinating given all contribute to a nurturing environment the arrival of children from remote districts that supports these young children in their educational and personal journeys. required flexibility, but the energy and excitement of the children made every effort worthwhile.

Throughout the camp, Roberta assisted with sessions and helped solve on-the-ground challenges. The children's enthusiasm was infectious, and the camp provided a safe space for them to share their stories, receive mentorship and strengthen their aspirations. A particular popular activity was the drawing contest, where CHC staff have the opportunity to select the best artwork. The top five drawings, chosen by popular vote, are later printed on greeting cards, with proceeds from sales benefiting the RTH program - an initiative the children enjoy.

Seeing familiar faces and witnessing the growth of children she has known for years made the

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the way to our goal – an incredible testament to our community's dedication to education and palliative care in Uganda.

Your contribution will:

- Empower vulnerable youth by supporting education and vocational training.
- Strengthen community care by enabling PCAU to support the elderly, disabled and marginalized.

Every dollar you donate is doubled, creating twice the impact. With your support, we can help ensure education remains a cornerstone of empowerment in Uganda.

Thank you for supporting the Road to Hope program and PCAU's mission. Together, we can cross the finish line and transform more lives in Uganda. Help us reach 100% of

our goal!

To help us reach our goal, scan the QR code or visit FoundationForHospice.org/ roadtohope



Although the week was exhausting, Roberta found immense fulfillment in reconnecting with the children and witnessing the tangible impact of the program. The RTH camp remains a beacon of hope, ensuring that vulnerable child caregivers receive the education, mentorship and care they need to become productive young adults. With each passing year, the program evolves - tackling new challenges and embracing new opportunities. Thanks to the dedication of volunteers like Roberta, the support of sponsors and the commitment of CHC and PCAU staff, these children continue to receive not just an education but also the love and mentorship that will guide them toward a brighter future.

40th Helping Hands Award Dinner to Honor "The King of Quality"

Since 1985, the Helping Hands Award has honored an individual, couple or family who demonstrates civic and charitable stewardship to improve the guality of living in the communities Center for Hospice Care serves. The 40th Helping Hands Award Dinner will honor "The King of Quality," Dan Fitzpatrick on May 7, 2025, at the Gillespie Center at Hilton Garden Inn. The evening will begin with cocktails at 6 pm, followed by dinner at 7 pm. Chairing the event are Ann and John Firth.

has received numerous accolades over the vears for both his business acumen and his deep commitment to public service.

Throughout his career, Dan has remained actively engaged in civic and nonprofit leadership across northern Indiana. He has held key roles with Madison Center and Hospital, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, the Morris Performing Arts Center and LOGAN Center. He currently serves as lead



John is the former president of Quality Dining, having joined the organization in 1996. Ann serves as vice president and chief of staff to the president of the University of Notre Dame.

Founder, chairman and CEO of Quality Dining, Inc., Dan's vision and leadership transformed a small group of quick-service restaurants into a thriving multi-concept restaurant company that now operates more than 157 locations. These include franchised brands like Burger King and Slim Chickens, along with full-service favorites such as Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen and Uptown Kitchen. Under Dan's leadership, Quality Dining has become one of the largest franchisees of Burger King Corporation in North America.

With more than 6,000 employees, the company ranks among the top 60 franchised food service businesses in the United States. Dan

director of 1st Source Corporation and is a trustee at Holy Cross College.

At the heart of Dan's community involvement is his passionate support of Catholic education across the Fort Wayne/South Bend Diocese. Through the "You Can Lend a Hand" program, Dan and his team have helped raise more than \$12 million for Catholic schools in northern Indiana and southwest Michigan.

For his entrepreneurial vision, decades of leadership and extraordinary service to the community, Center for Hospice Care is proud to honor Dan Fitzpatrick - "the King of Quality"

– with the 40th Helping Hands Award. Sponsorships for the event are available. Please contact Chief Development Officer Chris Taelman at 574.243.3713 or scan the QR code to learn more.





Camp Evergreen Helps Grieving Youth in Our Community

When a loved one passes away, it is difficult for the entire family. What is often forgotten is that younger people don't necessarily comprehend the concept of death and feel isolated from their peers. Camp Evergreen, Center for Hospice Care's (CHC) camp for grieving youth and teens, is designed to help campers realize that many other youth and teens have experienced death.

At camp, participants realize they are not alone! With guidance from licensed CHC bereavement counselors, they are educated on the grief process and ways to cope. While the camp is about grief, the youth and teens also enjoy many of the activities typically associated with summer camp, such as swimming, canoeing, enjoying nature and games with other participants.

At camp, trained volunteers act as adult buddies for individual campers or a small group of teen



campers. Other volunteers assist with the various activities at both the camp and the workshop.

Camp Evergreen is divided into two segments: a one-day camp experience for youth and teens ages 10 to 17 (18 if still in high school) and a oneday workshop for parents/guardians and their children, ages 6 to 12. Youth ages 10 to 12 can choose to participate in either of the experiences.

This year's Camp Evergreen takes place on Saturday, May 31, and the Camp Evergreen Workshop will be on Saturday, September 27. Thanks to the support of our generous community, Camp Evergreen is free to all youth and teens in our community who have experienced a loss. If you know of somebody who would benefit from the Camp

Evergreen experience, or are interested in being a volunteer, scan the QR code or email evergreen@cfhcare.org.



Elkhart's Legacy of Compassion CHC Elkhart Campus Renovation and Expansion

Elkhart is known for its proactive business leaders who join forces as visionary philanthropists. These community-minded individuals who live and work in Elkhart often come together and make things happen in short order. Center for Hospice Care's Elkhart campus is a prime example of the collective vision of such generous community leaders.

As our Elkhart campus enters its 17th year, we are focusing on a special fundraising effort for a campus renovation to meet patient care needs and to honor the vision of those who generously supported its establishment.

Why This Campaign?

Now more than ever, we need to invest in the campus to meet the growing and diverse needs of the community. Our \$1 million campaign will enhance our Elkhart facilities and infrastructure, ensuring a safe, accessible and welcoming environment for patients, families and staff.

Building on a Legacy of Compassion

The Elkhart campus has been a cornerstone of care in the community, serving as a place of comfort and support for patients and families facing life's most challenging moments. An essential part of this is Esther's House, a seven-bed inpatient unit that provides short-term medical care for symptom management or respite care for families. It is named in honor of Esther Strefling, and was made possible by a generous donation from the Strefling Foundation.

Over the years, many individuals, families and organizations have supported our vision for the

Elkhart campus. The countless contributions to support Esther's House and our Gardens of Remembrance and Renewal highlight the community's commitment to creating a space for comfort and reflection.

The Impact of CHC in Elkhart County

Center for Hospice Care has served over 15,000 patients in Elkhart County since adding it to our service area. Esther's House has served over 2,500 patients since 2008. More than 5,000 bereavement clients have found comfort and guidance through programs offered at the Elkhart campus.

Key Projects and Needs

The planned Elkhart campus improvements include new furnishings and updates to patient and family areas, improving security and accessibility, advanced technology for safety and monitoring, facility infrastructure and outdoor area improvements.

This project represents CHC's commitment to providing a space that embodies compassion and care for patients, families and staff.

How You Can Help

Your support will help us ensure the Elkhart campus continues to be a beacon of care for generations to come. Contributions of any size make a meaningful difference and bring us closer to realizing our vision of compassionate, high-quality care for all. For more information on how you can contribute or to discuss naming opportunities, please contact Chris Taelman, chief development officer, at taelmanc@cfhcare.org.





Third Circle of Caring Award Dinner

Center for Hospice Care's third Circle of Caring Award Dinner returns to Elkhart's Lerner Theater Crystal Ballroom on November 5. This year's dinner will posthumously honor Cindy (Bontrager) Hawkins in recognition of her lifelong service and commitment to her community. She was diagnosed in June of 2023 with glioblastoma, which is an aggressive form of brain cancer.

Following chemotherapy, radiation and various other treatments, she and her family made the decision to enter hospice care in April 2024. CHC made arrangements for Cindy to be cared for and comfortable at home. She passed away on May 8, 2024, surrounded by her family.

Cindy's parents, Lloyd and Bertha Bontrager, founded the Jayco RV company in 1968. The company grew quickly into an international leader in the industry. Cindy worked for the company for a number of years in various capacities, including as employee wellness director where she designed, opened and managed the innovative Wellness Center and employee wellness program.

Cindy enjoyed working with young people, beloved grandchildren. whether it was her own children or organizing the Center for Hospice Care was privileged to care for recreation events for national church youth Cindy at the end of her cancer battle. She fought conventions, coaching volleyball at Bethany Christian throughout her journey to maintain her autonomy High School and serving as interim youth pastor and continued to do what she loved despite the at Clinton Frame Church for several years. She limitations of her condition. She believed in served on a number of boards in the community, prioritizing what is life-giving. Her commitment to including Wycliff Associates, a world-wide Bible giving back to her community through supporting translation organization. family and youth-focused programs strongly

For Cindy, having family and friends in her home was an honor. She loved to host the kids' friends when they were younger, welcoming all with delicious food along with love and laughter. When the children began to spread their wings, she



cherished hosting "Mondays at Mom's" where family gathered to share a meal and fellowship. Even during the untimely diagnosis of her brain tumor she continued to care for others. She would regularly reach out to many of her "people" during her illness just to make sure they knew they were loved.

Cindy was a prolific writer, known through her personal blog, *Life on Amish Highway 35*, where she wrote many loving posts about her children, travel adventures and memories from her childhood. Her blog was active from 2007 until 2011, and came back to the forefront to document her battle with cancer.

Along with her devotion to youth, Cindy was involved with her community and church. She kept a barn of refrigerators and freezers that their Amish neighbors had year-round access to. Cindy was a committed member of Clinton Frame Church for 45 years and a loyal Christian.

A high priority for Cindy was caring for her extended family, her husband, kids and beloved grandchildren.

aligns with CHC's mission to improve the quality of living.

Learn more about the Circle of Caring Award by scanning the QR code.



Improving Mental Well-being

"These classes have truly changed the trajectory of my life," expressed Victoria, aged 61. As caregiver for her husband, who has Stage 4 esophageal cancer, and her mother, who passed away in the fall of 2024, anxiety overwhelmed Victoria. "Between the workload of caring for my family and the constant anxiety and rumination, even in moments of calm – inside of me, each second, I was spinning out of control."

Many caregivers and community members face similar challenges. Victoria's old coping methods weren't enough to stop overwhelming emotions. course, integrates psychology, neuroscience and contemplative practice to facilitate self-reflection. Finally, Find Your Meaning, an eight-week class, focuses on creating and sustaining meaning in the face of difficulty.

Through generous support from the Vera Z. Dwyer Charitable Trust, Center for Hospice Care offers lifePACT courses to the community free of charge.

lifePACT has expanded to include a weekly meditation and mindfulness group for ongoing communal support with individuals looking to maintain their learned skills. Recognizing the



Fortunately, a social worker at her husband's oncologist office recommended lifePACT to her.

lifePACT at Center for Hospice Care is a mental health education initiative designed to empower individuals and transform the community through evidence-based, life-affirming programs. These address the growing mental health challenges faced by people of all ages.

"Simply put, lifePACT is a sequence of four psychoeducational courses that rely on the principles of mindfulness, cognitive-behavioral therapy and neuroscience to teach participants to notice, acknowledge and manage emotions as they choose," stated Laura Baker, lifePACT administrator.

Each of the four interconnected courses builds upon the last. The Power of Presence, a six-week introductory course, teaches evidence-based strategies to decrease anxiety and depression. Mindfulness-based Resiliency, an eight-week class, delves deeper into mindfulness practices. Mindful Self-Compassion, another eight-week importance of early intervention, lifePACT also launched a parent/child class for ages 6-12, extending its impact to younger generations and fostering family-wide mental health awareness. A parent/adolescent mindfulness class for ages 13-18 will be introduced in the fall of 2025, completing the lifespan curriculum.

"By providing accessible, practical tools for improving mental well-being, lifePACT isn't just changing individual lives, but also contributing to the creation of a more resilient, compassionate and connected community," stated Baker.

Jenny, age 24, completely agreed, having completed all four classes and attending the weekly meditation. "When I started Power of Presence, I was stuck in fear. Now I have skills that I can practice. Before I felt so isolated. And now I feel hope."

For more information about the Power of Presence or any lifePACT offerings, please contact Laura Baker at bakerl@cfhcare.org.

Calendar of Events

We look forward to your participation in and support of these important events. Please check our websites, CFHCare.org or FoundationForHospice.org, for more information and event dates throughout the year.

May 2025

• May 7

40th Helping Hands Award Dinner Honoring Dan Fitzpatrick foundationforhospice.org/hhad25

• May 15

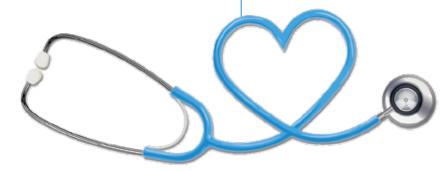
Vera Z. Dwyer Fellow in Hospice and Palliative Medicine Reception

- May 25 South Bend Sod Busters Spring Mud Bog
- May 31 Camp Evergreen Day Camp cfhcare.org/campevergreen

June 2025

- June Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
- June 2

Alzheimer's & Dementia 101 Online learning – email patty@alzni.org for registration information





• June 3

Gardens of Remembrance and Renewal Memorial Item Dedication Ceremony

• June 23

Denial of Dementia: The Family Online learning – email patty@alzni.org for registration information

July 2025

- July 25 Tom's Car Care Center's 20th Lube-a-Thon for Hospice
- July 30 Celebrating 20 Years of Partnership in Elkhart

September 2025

- September 10-12 5th Uganda Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care
- September 27 Camp Evergreen Family Workshop cfhcare.org/campevergreen

October 2025

• October 14 Veterans Tribute Ceremony

November 2025

- November National Hospice and Palliative Care Month
- November 5 3rd Circle of Caring Award Dinner Honoring Cindy Hawkins foundationforhospice.org/coc25
- November 11 Veterans Day
- November 23 Time of Remembrance Memorial Service

Find us on:





GIVING MOMENTS

Time, Treasure, Talent "The Tuesday Ladies"

A group of Center for Hospice (CHC) volunteers known as the Tuesday Ladies are a dedicated coterie of care and compassion. Today's group of women represent an almost 30-year tradition of gathering to produce handwritten acknowledgments that are sent to the bereaved loved ones of CHC patients. Thanks to the Tuesday Ladies, CHC patients' family and loved ones receive the names and addresses of generous memorial contributors.

Having fun and helping others is a cornerstone of the Tuesday Ladies' tradition dating back to 1996. One of the three founding members, Marlene Taylor, continues volunteering as part of the group.

Marlene recalls that although the group of women have always met on Tuesday mornings, they weren't always known as the Tuesday Ladies. The moniker was cast many years ago when a volunteer training session prompted the group to miss their regular Tuesday gathering. They decided to meet on Friday that week since they knew that there was a backlog of work.

"People at CHC approached us many times that day about us being there on a Friday rather than a Tuesday," Taylor said. "They knew if our group was there working, it was Tuesday and all was right with the world, so that began how we became known as the Tuesday Ladies."

Center for Hospice Care's Tuesday Ladies were recognized collectively with CHC's John E. Krueger, M.D. Hospice Caring Award in 2010. Each year this award is provided to a volunteer

who best exemplifies Dr. Kruger's commitment as one of CHC's cofounders.

"This was the first time the award was presented to a group," Taylor said. "Rather than trying to single out one of us, it was decided that we work as a whole, and if they were going to honor one of us, they had to honor all of us."

Joining her as today's Tuesday Ladies are Pat Goeller, Pam Garrett, Bonnie Stenson and Joan Fitt.

They gather at CHC's Mishawaka office around 8 am every other Tuesday morning. Their work together averages about two hours, processing dozens of handwritten contribution acknowledgments, depending on the time of year and fundraising initiatives.

"We always double check each other. One person writes the names and addresses, then someone else goes through and checks to make sure there are no spelling errors," Taylor said.

The Tuesday Ladies have evolved into a sisterhood that involves much more than sharing volunteer time at CHC. Friendships have blossomed, recipes are exchanged and members of the group socialize outside of volunteer hours.

"Our Tuesday Ladies are a cherished part of Center for Hospice Care. Their devotion to our mission inspires our team as we approach our daily tasks and challenges," said Mike Wargo, vice president/chief operating officer.



Center for Hospice Care's Inpatient Units A Home Away from Home

Center for Hospice Care's two inpatient units, the Ernestine M. Raclin House in Mishawaka and Esther's House in Elkhart, were designed to help patients and their families feel at home – even when they're not.



Patient room at Ernestine M. Raclin House



Ernestine M. Raclin House 535 Comfort Place • Mishawaka, IN 46545





Skilled, compassionate care in a home-like setting

Our inpatient units offer an alternative for patients in need of short-term medical care, symptom management or respite care

Family room at Esther's House

When is inpatient care appropriate?

- When supervised, around-the-clock care is needed
- When short-term medical care is needed for symptom management
- When a caregiver needs a brief respite

What do CHC's inpatient units offer?

- Multi-disciplinary care team including hospice physician, nursing, social work and chaplaincy
- 24-hour a day visitation, including pet visitation
- Private patient rooms with comfortable, extensive seating areas
- Spacious family areas that include a kitchen, family room, children's play area, workspaces and outdoor walking areas
- Spiritual reflection room
- Short-term private-pay stays are also available

Esther's House 22579 Old US 20 East • Elkhart, IN 46516

LEARN MORE 574.243.3100 • cfhcare.org/inpatient

Community Corner

Center for Hospice Care is grateful for the generosity of the many groups that support our mission through their independent fundraising efforts, grantsmanship and donations. Although we cannot recognize every effort, we are pleased to take this opportunity to recognize the following and thank all those in the community who support our organization. All gifts to Center for Hospice Care are made through and managed by the Hospice Foundation.

Inwood United Methodist Church donated \$200 to Center for Hospice Care.

Kappa Kappa Kappa Inc Beta Gamma Chapter gave \$240 for a Camp Evergreen Sponsorship.

Bremen United Methodist Church in Plymouth donated \$60 to Center for Hospice Care through their Jar of Hope.

Mishawaka Order of Eagles #2083 gave \$1,250 to Center for Hospice Care.

Plymouth Tri Kappa Beta Delta Chapter gave Center for Hospice Care \$250 to help with our efforts in promoting education, culture and charity in our community.

Through their benevolence fund, Cornerstone Church in Mishawaka donated bagels, pastries and coffee to Center for Hospice Care employees at a recent all-staff meeting. In previous years they had given small gift bags to the chaplains for the work they do, but wanted to do more this year.

\$500 was donated by Trinity on Jackson in Elkhart.

A heartfelt donation of \$500 was donated by the Koontz Lake Community and the members of the Koontz Lake Association for the services we provide to this community.

The Board of Officers of the Women of the Moose Elkhart Chapter No 73 gave \$150 to Center for Hospice Care in appreciation for our wonderful service to the community.

A \$100 donation in appreciation for the tremendous job Center for Hospice Care does in our community was given by Eck & Associates.

Chapter of Credit Unions - St. Joseph Valley Chapter of Credit Unions selected Center for Hospice Care as their charity of choice and donated \$100.

Members of the St. Joe Valley Street Rods visited Center for Hospice Care's Mishawaka campus with a donation of \$8,000 made possible by selling Barnaby's Pizza coupons.

\$1,000 was donated by the Sustainer Committee of the Junior League of South Bend in deep appreciation for the incredible work Center for Hospice Care does in providing comfort, care and support to patients and families.

Employee Blue Jeans Fridays at Radiology Inc resulted in a \$200 donation for Center for Hospice Care's After Images program.

Local fraternal organization Ahepa 100 and its charitable organization Ahepa 100 Charities gave \$500 towards the needs of Center for Hospice Care.

Culver Tri Kappa in Marshall County donated \$1,060.40 to Center for Hospice Care to continue our endeavors in the community.

\$330 was donated by the Brethren of North Liberty Masonic Lodge 266 to assist in our mission.

Due to Internal Revenue Service tax regulations, we may only issue written acknowledgement for donations made payable to and/ or processed directly by Center for Hospice Care or the Hospice Foundation. Donations made and/or processed via a third party may not be eligible for a charitable tax deduction. If you have any questions regarding charitable contributions, contact Mike Wargo, chief operating officer, at 574.243.2059 or WargoM@FoundationForHospice.org. For specific tax advice, you should visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov or contact your tax advisor.

Caring for those with Alzheimer's and related dementia and their loved ones







For Patients:

- Structured setting for adults needing health, social and support services during the day
- A caring, warm and compassionate place that encourages each guest to flourish
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MiltonADS.org • 574.232.2666 • alzni.org 111 Sunnybrook Court •South Bend, IN 46637









Home to two of the area's leading organizations for Alzheimer's and dementia patients and their caregivers





For Caregivers:

- Support services and education crucial to providing superior care to your loved ones
- Caregiver activities offering relaxation, a welcome break and a fun hour or two
- Over 20 different, professionally facilitated support groups to help reduce stress levels
- Meet with a trained professional one-on-one or as an entire family to gain understanding and plan for your loved one's future care needs

Mitton Village

GIVING MOMENTS



Circle of Caring

Champion \$25,000 and above

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To further our mission to improve the quality of living for those we serve regardless of their ability to pay, the Hospice Foundation implemented a donor giving program: Circle of Caring. Membership in the Circle of Caring entitles donors to benefits based on the level of the donor's cumulative annual support. Center for Hospice Care and the Hospice Foundation express their appreciation and honor our members in the following societies:

Recognition in this issue covers gifts received from January 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025.

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In Memory of Dale K. Fozo Kathleen Ann Fozo In Memory of Ray F. Frazier

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In Memory of Joseph Anthony Gatto Mary M. Gatto

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In Memory of Cynthia (Cindy) **Cathleen Gearhart** Barbara R. Colborn Chervel Stuckey In Memory of Karen Hope Gerber Suzanne M. Morgan

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In Memory of Alex J. Gerencser, Sr. Janet and David Hankins

In Memory of Elizabeth Gerencser Janet and David Hankins

In Memory of Betty Lemler Germano Tracy and Dave Case Lisa Germano and Family Jennifer C. Thornton

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In Memory of Suellen (Sue) Gever David F. Geyer

In Memory of James V. Gibbons Betty Ann Gibbons

In Memory of Beulah (Faye) Gibson Peggy and Ronald Myers Gavle and Jeff Wise

In Memory of Angeline R. Goeller Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Goeller

In Memory of Charles R. Goodacre Klothilde E. Goodacre

In Memory of Tracy Hope Goodin Sharon and Mark Osthimer

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Mark W. Kamm

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In Memory of Sophie L. Kazmierczak

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Sally J. Vida

In Memory of Paul Rex Juday

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In Memory of Ann M. Kagel

In Memory of John R. Kagel

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In Memory of Christine S. Kaser

In Memory of Lynn Leon Kast

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Sharon A Jones

Rehecca I VanHuffel

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Prudy Stocker

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Sue Fozo

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In Memory of Katherine M. Kenna

In Memory of Paul S. Kenna

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In Memory of Joseph (Joe) K. Kertes

In Memory of Annie Louise Kessinger

In Memory of William (Bill) Joseph

In Memory of Everett R. Kettle

In Memory of Joyce Caroline Kevorkian

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In Memory of Karen Ann Kiene

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In Memory of Sandra (Sandy) K. Kucharski Rose Williams

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In Memory of Dale A. Kulczar Marjorie A. Kronk



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In Memory of Donald (Don) A. Laskowski Ellen L. Jungck

In Memory of Patricia A. Laskowski Ellen L. Jungck

In Memory of John Joseph Latimer Donna Werda

In Memory of Gilbert (Gil) W. Laware Jennifer Laware

In Memory of Jeannine A. Laware Jennifer Laware

In Memory of Judith (Judy) A. Leatherman Dennis D. Leatherman

In Memory of Betty Lou Lechlitner Teresa and Donald Lechlitner

In Memory of Kenneth Lechlitner Teresa and Donald Lechlitner

In Memory of Lee Family Members Judy and William Lee

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In Memory of Richard (Lefty) LeMere, Sr.

Tammy and Jim Budzinski Leona F. Cave Christina and Barry Flanigan Vickie Jernigan Angie and Jeff Kindig Charlotte A. Mathews-Smiley Kim and Mike Osmanski Mary Jo and George Wachs

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In Memory of Douglas Dwight Miller

In Memory of Donna Fay Miller

In Memory of Gerald Miller

In Memory of Howard K. Miller

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Our mission is simple – "to improve the quality of living" for the patients and families in our care. Because entering hospice care doesn't mean giving up on life, CHC helps patients live life to the fullest. The hospice services we provide are tailored to meet the needs of the patients and their loved ones. When we began serving patients in 1980, we promised that no one eligible for hospice care

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