

Dateline

Where hope lives.

HOSPICE BUFFALO

Spring 2011

Providing compassionate Palliative Care since 1978.

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Why End-of-Life Planning is Smart, Necessary

By J. Donald Schumacher, Psy. D.,

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Donald Schumacher says many fear talking about how they want end-of-life care handled.
- Some politicians stoked fear with misinformation to try to derail health reform,
- Advance care planning gives people a say over their care before a crisis.
- Health care professionals agree Medicare should pay for this sensible planning



J. Donald Schumacher, Psy. D.
President & CEO of the
National Hospice & Palliative
Care Organization

Editor's note: J. Donald Schumacher is president and CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, a public policy group that represents hospices.

(CNN) - Thinking about death can be frightening, no matter your age or medical condition. As we get older, the reality of our own mortality tends to come into clearer focus; this doesn't make talking about death or life-sustaining treatments any less frightening though.

It was fear - stoked by certain politicians - that led to the inaccurate and misguided "death panel" rumors that surrounded health care reform proposals last year.

Medicare was slated to reimburse physicians who advise patients, in

Continued on page 8.

FAMILY TESTIMONIAL...

You were
a light
at a very
dark time.

Tom, Buffalo



West Herr Guest House
on Hawthorne Street.

West Herr Automotive Group Donates \$250,000 to Hospice Buffalo

Hospice is pleased to announce the West Herr Automotive Group has committed \$250,000 to capital projects at the Hospice Buffalo Mitchell Campus. The gift will be directed towards renovation of the clinical building including addition of acute patient rooms, expansion of clinicians' work space and efficiency improvements in care delivery. As a result, Hospice Buffalo will be able to enrich the experiences of our patients and visiting family members while enhancing our already nationally recognized level of care.

In announcing the gift, West Herr Automotive Group's vice president, John Wabick stated, "The West Herr Automotive Group is proud to support the fine

Continued on page 4.

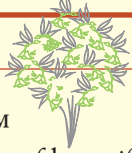
Calendar of Events

March 2-5

Hospice Buffalo

Spring Bouquet Sale™

Pick up your \$8 bouquet of beautiful flowers from any participating florist, Erie County Bank of America branches, select Dunkin' Donuts locations, or area hospitals and business sites. For a complete list of locations, visit HospiceBuffalo.com.



Wed., March 30 & Thurs., March 31

Nursing Career Open House –

Registered nurses are invited to attend our Nursing Open House to learn about full-time opportunities, take a tour and apply for positions. Come to the Hospice Education Center, 225 Como Park Blvd., Cheektowaga, from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon on March 30 or from 4 – 8 p.m. on March 31. See HospiceBuffalo.com for more details.

Wed., April 6 & Thurs., April 7

Volunteer Open House

Join us for Hospice Buffalo's Volunteer Open House on Wed. April 6 from 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon or from 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Hospice Mitchell Campus. We will also share volunteer opportunities on April 7 at Hospice's city office located at 892 Main St, Buffalo, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Visit online at www.HospiceBuffalo.com for details or call Marcia at 686-8309.

Tues., April 19

Open House at Hospice Buffalo

Join us for an overview of the many services available to help you and your family. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of the clinical building, 225 Como Park Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY. A tour of the campus is provided. Free event. To register, call (716) 686-8070 or email info@palliativecare.org.

ALIGNING THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS MISSION WITH THE COMMUNITY

CEO's Message



Flint D. Besecker, CEO

As I'm writing this, it is zero degrees outside. My thoughts turn to our staff and volunteers, many of whom are on the road all day, driving throughout Erie County to bring skilled care and needed supplies to hundreds of patients.

Our dedicated people are constantly engaged in the community and identifying clusters of people who can benefit from our palliative care model. We strive to minimize suffering and enhance the quality of living near end-of-life. This process helps shape our organizational priorities and drives alignment with our mission. It's a healthy cycle of: external community awareness of need, self reflection as an organization and re-alignment of capabilities and resources. This process has revealed several areas of focus which will shape our organizational priorities and I wanted to share some of them with you.

We will strive to integrate our palliative care clinicians into other aspects of the healthcare delivery system. For example, this may include placing a palliative nurse practitioner into an oncologist's practice or dialysis clinic. Our specialists can provide palliative consults and at home symptom support as a supplement to the patient's existing clinical team. It is our goal to work with the patient's existing clinical team of experts to ensure that we are fully addressing all medical needs, before a symptom escalates. In this way, we can improve quality of life for each patient and their family.

Another area of focus will be the expansion of expressive therapies such as art and music. It is commonly understood that mankind values the arts as an expression of creativity, emotion and the spirit. Our trained clinical expressive therapists will individualize this experience for our patients. It's amazing to observe the richness in experiences created for the patients and their loved ones. See p. 5 for a first-hand look at music therapy.

Finally, we strive to support all residents of Erie County, regardless of background or race. Admittedly, our patient demographics reveal we can improve reaching the minority communities. While this is a national issue for Hospice, we are not satisfied with using this fact as an excuse. We will be speaking with many minority community leaders to understand the challenges and barriers we face in seeking to serve all residents of the county, regardless of race.

The three areas listed above are just a sampling of what we have identified as unmet community needs. We have reflected upon our ability to succeed in addressing those needs and are making investments in our organization. After all, we are the community's asset and our dedicated 650 employees and 1,400 volunteers are listening.

May you enjoy the warmth of family and friends as we anticipate the start of spring in Western New York.

Flint D. Besecker, CEO

Hospice Enables Couple to Travel

A Grand Island couple married 33 1/2 years has been able to enjoy traveling together with the support of Hospice Buffalo. Pam Helman, a former director of managed care for the Catholic Health system, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Prior to her illness, Pam and her husband, Ken, had traveled overseas several times.

"I made the decision to cease restorative care because there wasn't any other treatment that was going to prolong my life," stated the 57 year-old, who was admitted to Hospice Buffalo last July. "I spoke to doctors at Roswell and they agreed that although the life expectancy would be minimal there would not be a significant change in the prognosis. So I decided I would spend the rest of my time just enjoying the time I had left."

"The traditional chemotherapy and radiation wasn't doing anything," said Ken while holding Pam's hand in their beautiful living room. "Her only other option was experimental drugs and the only ones she could try had high side effects."

"We've been churning up some miles," smiled Pam. "After being admitted to Hospice home care, our first major trip was to Michigan for our oldest son's wedding. Brent got married in the middle of June and we had a grand time attending all the festivities. He was married in a castle where the owner of Sears and Roebuck once lived."

"Our second major trip was out to southern California to visit Brent who is in the security forces of the Air Force. They were launching a missile so Justin (middle son) and I went out and spent a week and a half visiting and watching the missile launch."

"Hospice Buffalo contacted the Santa Maria hospice program in California to let them know that should any emergency occur, Pam could contact them to get help," added Ken.



Pam and Ken agreed to make the most of the time they had together.

When Pam and Ken decided to go to Hawaii, they encountered an issue with the Hospice transfer process that neither of them expected. Thankfully, the couple had their Hospice Buffalo physician's cell phone number with them.

"Ken and I had always wanted to go to Hawaii. So off we went to Honolulu," recalled Pam. "We had a couple hiccups. We were there about a week... the hotel was extremely accommodating. They understood the circumstances. We returned one day late."

"We missed our original flight back because Pam wasn't feeling well enough to fly," explained Ken. "She wasn't able to stay awake for

any length of time. Some of her mind function had slowed down so she couldn't string three or four words together. Dr. Maher called back and suggested some medication in Pam's 'comfort pack' we had with us. She felt better once she took that."

"What's worse than spending an extra day in Hawaii? She didn't get any argument out of me," he laughed.

"The real rules are that there aren't any transfer arrangements for non-Medicare beneficiaries," said Pam who is under 65 and doesn't qualify for Medicare. "It caught us by surprise."

"It's not right," added Ken. "There's no reason for anyone with a terminal illness to not be able to do what they want and get the support they need throughout the world and this country." *

"On the way back from Hawaii, we received a call from Dr. Maher while we were in the airport in Los Angeles. She was concerned and wanted to see how things were going. We thought that was extremely nice."

"Dr. Maher has been fabulous. We've gotten to all of our destinations. All in all, we've had three very successful trips," adds Pam.

"We've also been able to see our youngest son, Adam, compete in pole vault in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania," said Ken.

"He goes to Binghamton University so there are many weekends that we leave to go to see him," said Pam.

"There's no holding her back," affirms Ken. "She's going to be there."

Continued on page 4.

Dateline

West Herr Automotive Group Donates \$250,000 to Hospice Buffalo, Continued from page 1.

work of Hospice Buffalo in our community. Over the years, Hospice Buffalo has assisted many of our West Herr employees and customers, their family members, as well as members of my own family with wonderful care at the end-of-life. West Herr's support of Hospice is our way of returning something to Hospice that will ultimately help create beneficial experiences to those in need in the future."

Hospice is grateful for the continued partnership and support of the West Herr Automotive Group. In celebration of West Herr's generosity, the Hospice guest residence located at 47 Hawthorne Avenue, adjacent to the Hospice Mitchell Campus, will be named The West Herr Automotive Group Hospice Buffalo Guest House. The guest house is available to out of town family members visiting loved ones residing at the Mitchell Campus.

This recent gift continues the spirit of generous philanthropy demonstrated by the West Herr Automotive Group. For the last several years, West Herr and WKBW-TV have donated advertising messages to spread the word about Hospice care. In 2005, West Herr Automotive Group supported the renovation of the Family Dining Room located in the clinical building of the Hospice Mitchell Campus. Today, it is known as the West Herr Bistro and is a warm and friendly place for patients and families to gather and share a meal.

Hospice Enables Couple to Travel, Continued from page 3.

The couple's middle son, Justin, is home with his mom and watches over her care.

"Justin has been quite the primary caregiver," said Ken. "He has delayed continuing on with college just to stay here and help out. He has allowed me to continue to work."

Justin, whose goal is to go to medical school, feels Hospice has provided the family with peace of mind.

"The doctors at Roswell were great, but if something went wrong after 6 p.m. or on the weekends, you went to an Emergency Room. Now with Hospice, you know someone's there on the other end of the phone line all the time. You can call with any problem big or small. We don't have to worry about prescriptions anymore. There's always a nurse coming to make sure our prescription is filled. Before Hospice, when mom wasn't eating or sleeping well, or had some indigestion, you were seeing the doctor once every month for 20 minutes. Something that small of a problem, you really didn't want to bring up because you felt like you were wasting their time. With Hospice, they ask questions about sleeping, eating and such all the time so it has really improved her quality of life."

As is the case with many people before they receive Hospice, Ken and Justin Helman thought Hospice care was just for people who had two weeks to live.

"My idea was that Hospice was short term and was giving you enough pain meds to get through it and make you comfortable," said Justin. "Now I know Hospice is a whole range of things that they can do for you like getting you medical equipment if you need it, taking care of your prescriptions, having a nurse come out to check on you, having a social worker to help not only the patient, but also the family and extended family, and having a chaplain come out for you if you want."

In-between their travels, the Helmans enjoy gardening and remodeling their home. Pam's number one pastime, though, is going on trips.

"Not everyone is out there traveling, but if you know me, I want to squeeze every last inch," said Pam, with tears in her eyes.



Pam, Justin and Ken Helman with their dog Cali.

***Editor's Note:** Pam Helman died peacefully at home Nov. 22, 2010. She was 58. As a result of the Helman's traveling experience, the transfer agreements between hospice programs for non-Medicare hospice patients is being researched.

March 2 - 5, 2011

Presented By:
Bank of America



Event Sponsor:



Endorsed By: The Professional Florists of WNY

Supported By: WGRZ Ch. 2, WJYE, WYRK and Insty Prints



Music Therapy: A Means of Connection & Expression

By *Todd Callen, Family Member*

The following letter from a Hospice family member is reprinted with permission.

I just received a call from my mom. When I left Hospice earlier today, my mom and stepfather stayed behind to visit longer with my Aunt Jan. Anyway, my mom called to tell me about the great experience they had with the Music Therapist.

I don't know if the Hospice staff knew this or not; but my mom's side of the family (which includes Aunt Jan); is extremely musical. We've had an uncle on Broadway; my late grandma taught piano; my mom and Aunt Jan sing in the church choir; my brother and sister were in musicals all the time growing up, etc.

So, when the Music Therapist shows up – my mom and Uncle Paul are like “sure, we'd love for you to play something....” So, INCREDIBLY, the gal sits down and plays/sings quietly, but very nicely... and don't you know that the first song she happened to pick to sing (Moon River) was my Aunt and Uncle's Wedding Song.

Moon River is “their song!!!” That's awesome!!!

Not surprisingly, there wasn't a dry eye in the room – and my mom has just continued to rave about the impact that the impromptu concert had on Aunt Jan. The music therapist continued to sing about five or six more songs – Aunt Jan even made a request to hear Edelweiss again. It was great.

Twenty Five YEARS OF SPRING

Over the past 25 years, the Hospice Spring Bouquet Sale™ has become a timeless symbol marking the beginning of a new Spring season in Western New York. Along with being the Hospice Foundation's largest event, the Sale also brings much needed public awareness for Hospice Buffalo and its mission. Hospice provides exceptional care and life enhancing services for seriously ill patients and their loved ones. Every year, more than 45 local florists, 450 area businesses, schools and organizations and 550 volunteers participate. In 24 years, we've sold 441,000 bouquets and 24,000 tribute bouquets, raising nearly \$3.5 million for Hospice Buffalo.

Check out HospiceBuffalo.com for a complete listing of additional sites, including select Dunkin' Donuts locations in Erie County.

You can pick up a bouquet for \$8 at your participating florist or by visiting a Hospice volunteer at one of the following locations:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

All Erie County **Bank of America** branches

Hospitals: Buffalo General Hospital, Women & Children's Hospital, Millard Fillmore Gates, Millard Fillmore Suburban, Erie County Medical Center, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

All Erie County **Bank of America** branches

Hospitals: Buffalo General Hospital, Women & Children's Hospital, Millard Fillmore Gates, Millard Fillmore Suburban, Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Sisters Hospital, Sisters of Charity Hospital - St. Joseph Campus, Erie County Medical Center, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Downtown: HSBC Bank USA, Rand Building, Rath Building, and Larkin at Exchange Building

Other Sites: AppleTree Business Park, Buffalo Cardiology & Pulmonary and Buffalo Medical Group on Essjay in Williamsville

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

All Erie County **Bank of America** branches

Hospitals: Buffalo General Hospital, Women & Children's Hospital, Millard Fillmore Gates, Millard Fillmore Suburban, Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Sisters of Charity Hospital - St. Joseph Campus, Erie County Medical Center, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Downtown: HSBC Bank USA, Rand Building, Rath Building, and Larkin at Exchange Building

Other Sites: AppleTree Business Park, Buffalo Cardiology & Pulmonary, Buffalo Medical Group, Dent Neurologic Institute, Premier Wine & Spirits Transit Road, Prime Wines Delaware, Prestige Wine & Spirits Orchard Park

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Visit your local florist.

Patrick Flynn Appointed President of the Hospice Foundation of WNY



Patrick T. Flynn, CFRE

Patrick T. Flynn, CFRE has been promoted to President of the Hospice Foundation of Western New York, Inc. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Flynn served as vice president of the Hospice Foundation of WNY since 1995.

“The Foundation enables The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care to fund new clinical program services and ensure the long term viability of the entire organization,” said Flint Besecker, CEO of The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, the parent company of the Hospice Foundation of WNY, Inc. “Patrick has done an outstanding job in raising vital funds and stewarding our investments to enhance our patient services and program goals.”

“I am very blessed to have the opportunity to serve the Hospice Foundation of WNY in the capacity of President,” stated Flynn. “The Western New York community continues to be extraordinarily

Continued on page 10.

“HOSPICE HAS FREED ME TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE”-

James Cox Mentors and Manages a Small Business at 95

James Cox answers the door to his West Seneca home wearing a brightly colored tartan vest. “I’m wearing my college tartan, class of ‘38,” he proudly explains. “My wife sewed this for me for our 60th anniversary.” Mr. Cox is a lively 95 year old with plenty of amazing stories, starting from his early days in Pittsburgh, to his navy days and the creation of several manufacturing companies, to founding his current company, and mentoring other budding entrepreneurs.



Mr. Cox with his Hospice social worker, Melissa Norris.

Born in Pittsburgh, James Cox graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in management engineering. It was also where he met his wife, Betty who was getting her degree from Carnegie Mellon’s Margaret Morrison College. He was 29 years old with two children when he entered the Navy. He was a gunnery officer on an armed merchant ship, which they used to transport supplies, such as crude oil from South America to refineries in Philadelphia.

He served with the Navy during World War II for two years, and was honorably discharged. He then decided to open a plastics business in Buffalo. “Buffalo had all kinds of industries that needed plastic parts,” he recalled. In 1946, his family moved from Pittsburgh and he founded the plastics manufacturing company, Cox Plastics.

He went on to invest in four other companies, and in 2005, at the age of 89, he started his current company Emblematic. “It’s amazing what you can do when you want to,” he stated. Emblematic makes magnetic emblems for veterans, and his small business has grown to provide military emblems for funeral parlor vehicles in almost every state. All of his products are proudly made in the United States.

Mr. Cox is also proud of his five children with his college sweetheart. He has three sons, William, James Jr. and Daniel; and two daughters, Alice and Helen. In fact, his daughter Helen, an R.N. from Lewiston suggested Hospice. “She was familiar with the care that Hospice provides,” he added.

For the last seven months, Mr. Cox has received care in his West Seneca home for COPD, with visits from his nurse Patty McCarthy, his pastor Rev. Fred Beyer and social worker Melissa Norris.

“Hospice has freed me to help other people. It allows me to mentor without having to worry about my medication and my needs,” he added. “I really want people to know how great Hospice is.” He has even made plans to collaborate with Hospice on making a magnetic emblem for veterans receiving care in the Hospice program. “I’d like to put the Hospice Buffalo logo on one of our ‘Welcome Home Troops’ magnets, do a small run, and see how it goes.” As always, James Cox is a tireless entrepreneur full of ideas.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Hosted by Life Transitions Center



The following support groups are offered by Life Transitions Center (LTC), 150 Bennett Road, Cheektowaga. These groups are facilitated by licensed master level professionals. For more information or to register, call 836-6460. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are held at Life Transitions Center. **Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.**

THESE GROUPS ARE FACILITATED BY PROFESSIONAL, LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS AND COUNSELORS

After a Parent Dies	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Meets for 8 weeks on Mondays	Support for adults who have experienced the death of a parent. \$80 fee for 8 weeks. Call LTC at 836-6460 for more info.
Metastatic Breast Cancer Networking Group	5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. 1st Wednesday of each month	This is an evening of conversation and social networking for women who have experienced metastatic breast cancer. NO FEE. Call Joanne Janicki at 845-4432 for more info.
General Grief Support Group	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 2nd Thursday of each month	Support group for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one. Monthly topics will be discussed. Fee \$5.00 per session. Call LTC at 836-6460 for more info. 2011 Dates - March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8
Suicide Bereavement Support Group	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. 1st Tuesday of each month	Support group for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one as a result of a suicide. NO FEE. Call 836-6460 for more info.
Widowed Persons Over 50	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Meets for 8 weeks on Thursdays	Support for those who have experienced the death of a spouse within the last 24 months. \$80 fee for 8 weeks. Call LTC at 836-6460 for more info.
Widowed Persons Under 50	6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Meets for 8 weeks on Tuesdays	Support for those who have experienced the death of a spouse within the past 24 months. Participants must be 50 years of age or younger, or have children under the age of 18 years. \$80 fee for 8 weeks. Call LTC at 836-6460 for more info.
Planet Kid/Teen	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. 2nd Friday of each month for 4 months	A comfort program for children ages 5-11 and teens ages 12-18 who have lost a loved one. Movies, pizza, creative activities, and an opportunity to share feelings and loss. \$50 fee for 4 sessions, held in the Hospice Education Center. Call Jim Grande at LTC at 836-6460, ext. 103 for more info.
Voyagers... Help on the Journey	TBA	Children's support group for ages 6-13 who have a loved one with a serious illness. The group meets at LTC. There is a fee of \$5 per child for each session. Call Jim Grande at LTC at 836-6460, ext. 103 for more info.
Camp Blue Skies	Fall 2011	Overnight bereavement camp held each Fall at Cradle Beach Camp in Angola for children ages 7-16 who have experienced the death of a loved one. Cost: \$30 per camper. Contact Jim Grande at LTC at 836-6460, ext. 103.

THESE SUPPORT GROUPS ARE FACILITATED BY PEERS

Bereaved Parents of the USA	7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. 2nd Friday of each month	Together we journey with understanding, love and compassion, to help ease the pain of the death of our beloved children. For more info, contact Tony & Bernie Misita at 675-3844.
Compassionate Friends	7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. 1st Friday of each month	Assists families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age. Our vision is that who ever needs us finds us, and who ever finds us will be helped. NO FEE. For more info, contact Andy Thomasula at 626-9463.
The FRAT (Father's Rallying Against Tragedy)	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday of each month	This group is for MEN only whom have lost a child of any age at any time. NO FEE. For more info, contact Joe at 213-3277 or jdjqin5@verizon.net.
Empty Leash	5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. every Thursday	Pet loss support group. NO FEE. For more info, contact Kim at 668-2446. Website: www.emptyleash.com . (Group on hold until May 2011)
Footprints on the Heart	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. 4th Wednesday of each month	Support for parents who have experienced the death of a baby as a result of miscarriage, ectopic (tubal) pregnancy, stillbirth, early infant death or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). NO FEE. For more info, contact Fran Kane at 862-1678.
Tiniest Angels	7:00 p.m. 2nd Wednesday of each month	Support group for parents who have experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth and early infant death.
Hopeful Hearts	Meets on an as needed basis	Support for women who are considering pregnancy, or are pregnant, after a miscarriage or infant death. NO FEE. For more info, contact Fran Kane at 862-1678.

Schumacher Cover Story, Continued from page 1.

voluntary discussions, about their preferences for end-of-life care treatment during their annual Medicare “wellness visit.” Although the provision to reimburse physicians was removed, the importance of having these discussions between patients and physicians remains. This is called advance care planning, and it is a good thing for seniors, their families and health care professionals.

It’s not new. A law passed in 2008 allowed end-of-life planning to be part of a patient’s “welcome to Medicare” exam. Health care reform turned the welcome visit into an annual wellness visit. And now regulations clarify that these important discussions will be covered should the Medicare beneficiary wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

Advance care planning allows a person to make his or her wishes and care preferences known before being faced with a medical crisis. Advance care planning is simply smart life-planning.

Another way to think about advance care planning is that it’s like planning a trip to an unfamiliar destination. If you’re like many people, once you have your

destination in mind, you begin mapping the route you will take to get there. Some people consult AAA or Google Maps to help them chart their course. Other people talk to friends and family members about their experiences on their trips.

While people approach mapping their route in differing ways, few would expect to arrive at their destination safely and comfortably without having a well-thought out map in hand before hitting the road. Yet only 30% of Americans have a living will, a map detailing where they want their health care to go should they become unable to voice their wishes.

An individual’s personal wishes, beliefs and values are among the most important factors when making care decisions brought about by a serious or life-limiting illness. Such wishes and preferences can be known only if they are discussed openly.

Research has shown that patient-physician discussions result in a higher quality of life for patients and their family caregivers facing the end of a life.

By having Medicare cover these voluntary consultations, beneficiaries will be able to get information that will help them make their own decisions about their care and what they would or would not want at life’s end. And it’s only appropriate that patients should be able to have these discussions with the very physicians who have been caring for them and that these doctors be compensated for this valuable service.

An advance care planning consultation is not about limiting or rationing care. It’s not about

hastening death. It’s not about having choices made for the patient. It’s not about saving money.

Advance care planning is about examining options, planning and communicating the choices that the individual wants – either to limit treatments, accept all treatments or something in between. The course charted is decided by individual patients, not their doctors, and certainly not the government.

Advance care planning includes completing a living will and appointing a health care proxy.

A living will charts the course for your health care, letting your family and health care providers know what procedures and treatments you would want provided to you and under what conditions.

A health care proxy or health care power of attorney form allows you to choose someone you trust to take charge of your health care decisions in case you are unable to make those decisions yourself.

Advance directives, as these documents are also known, can be changed as an individual’s situation or wishes change.

Based on my 35 years of experience running hospice programs and caring for people at life’s end, I know firsthand that frank, open discussions with one’s health care providers can relieve anxiety about a situation that we all will one day face.

It makes sense that Medicare help facilitate this important planning.

*Originally appeared on CNN.com
12/27/10*

FAMILY TESTIMONIAL

“God bless
you for
the wonderful
work
you do.”

Mary, Cheektowaga

Find this article at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/12/27/schumacher.end.of.life.planning/index.html>



January 2011

Dear Friends of Hospice:

Through the generosity of more than 2,000 supportive donors, more than \$325,000 has been raised in our 2010 Year-End Appeal. We are very grateful to all for this expression of kindness that will do much in the coming months to provide the important services offered by The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care to more than 600 patients a day in Erie County. This outstanding financial assistance speaks to how much Hospice is valued in our community and at the same time is a tribute to all Hospice caregivers and bedside volunteers.

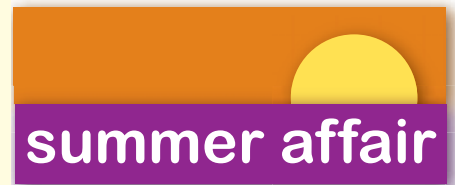
For the past 17 years, the Hospice Foundation has had the help of a distinguished group of fundraising volunteers – The Hospice Signature Society. We are grateful to these individuals who make a tremendous difference in our year-end fundraising efforts. Their commitment, dedication and support helps us raise important dollars needed to ensure the continuation of care for our patients and their loved ones.

We are most appreciative of our donors continued financial commitment and confidence in our mission, amidst uncertain economic times. Your gifts of kindness to the Hospice Foundation make a significant difference to so many patients facing the end of life, and to their loved ones as well. The countless letters we receive from family members attest to their gratitude for the services we provide on a daily basis. You – our generous donors – make this possible!

We thank you on behalf of the lives you touch and make better. We will continue to work at being worthy of your continuing support for those in our care.

Sincerely, Doug & Beth Swift
2010 Hospice Signature Society Chair Couple

Special Events Corner



THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011

Harry's Harbour

Celebrate all Buffalo has to offer this summer with an evening out with friends, co-workers and family. Join us in end of summer celebration including cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, theme package auction, raffles and live music from the Strictly Hip. Tickets are \$50 per person and include drink tickets. Corporate sponsorship packages are available. Don't miss out on the HOTTEST party of the summer!



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011

Adam's Mark Hotel Grand Ballroom

Join the Hospice Foundation for the Eleventh Annual Harvest Festival at the Adam's Mark Hotel Grand Ballroom. The premier event celebrates and recognizes the friends and family of Hospice Buffalo. This fabulous evening includes wine tasting, silent and live auctions, gourmet dinner with wine accompaniment, and dancing to the music of Twilight. Last year's event raised over \$295,000 for Hospice services in our community.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX IN APRIL FOR THE HOSPICE FOUNDATION'S SPRING APPEAL REQUEST.

Your generous response will help so many in our care.

2010 Hospice Signature Society Members

Doug & Beth Swift – Chair	Chris & Camie Greene	Barbara McQueeney
Paul & Carol Bieron	Bill & Jane Greene	John Mineo & Vicki Feine Mineo
EJ & Karen Butler	Gary & Karen Greenfield	Jock & Betsy Mitchell
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Jennifer & Nancy Dowdell	Sam & Elizabeth Gurney	Richard & Karen Penfold
Ken & Shelley Drake	Andy & Mary Hunt	Mike & Doreen Prendergast
Anthony & Sarah Duddy	Lou & Jackie Izzo	Buford & Suzy Sears
Bob & Lisa Feldman	Anne Keating	Peter & Lisa Walsh
Horace Gioia	Mike & Stephanie Laipple	Ted & Ginna Walsh
Jeffrey & Michele Goldfarb	Neal Lang	Jeff & Suzie Wellington
	Vince & Pat Mancuso	David & Susan Zebro
	Durham & Valerie McCauley	

A SPECIAL THANKS

Tubby's Cruisers Helps Make the Holiday Season Special



A special thanks to the Tubby's Cruisers for a wonderful event held on September 19, 2010. The donations raised from this event were restricted to our Family Care Fund and helped purchase Christmas gifts and essential items for Hospice families in need this holiday season.

Patrick Flynn Appointed President of the Hospice Foundation of WNY, Continued from page 6.

generous to Hospice and recognizes the important role that palliative care plays in our health care delivery system. I look forward to expanding the role of the Hospice Foundation, ensuring strong stewardship of our community's support and investing in enhancing quality end-of-life care experiences to anyone who is in need."

The Buffalo State graduate has been in the development field for more than twenty-five years and

received his Certification as a Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) in 1998. His responsibilities include overseeing the activities of the Hospice Foundation and The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care's Marketing Department. He is a past recipient of Western New York's Fund Raiser of the Year from the WNY Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), and has professional memberships in AFP, the Planned Giving Consortium

of WNY, The Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, The National Council of Hospice & Palliative Care Professionals and The National Hospice Work Group. He is a member of Leadership Buffalo's Class of 1999.

A resident of Kenmore, NY, Mr. Flynn resides with his wife, Mary Mullett-Flynn, a free lance journalist. The couple has three children, Maggie, Sean and Evan.

THE HOSPICE Helpers

Become a Hospice Helper! If your company or organization is interested in fundraising for Hospice, please contact the Hospice Foundation at 686-8090 or visit HospiceBuffalo.com. You can download a complete "Hospice Helpers" fundraising toolkit to get you started. You must formally submit the application and be approved by the Hospice Foundation for your fundraising activity. Please notify us at least four weeks prior to your event.

The following community groups organized various events to benefit Hospice Buffalo. Many thanks go out to these groups, our "Hospice Helpers" for their time and effort and to the Hospice volunteers who assisted when needed. If your event raises \$250 or more, we will list it in the next issue of DATELINE. Funds raised through "Hospice Helpers" support patient care, our greatest need.

Fundraiser for Mom, "In Memory of Barbara Tabbi"\$5,180
Tubby's Cruisers, "All Clubs Get Together"\$2,090
First Niagara Financial Group, "Jeans Day"\$1,810
M&T Bank Accounting Department, "Chinese Auction"\$1,600
Hospice Helpers, "In Memory of Audrey Sicurella"\$1,250
Lunch with Santa, Benefiting Essential Care for Children\$1,000
Millgrove Volunteer Fire Department, "Pictures with Santa"\$750
Alden-Area Ecumenical Choir, "Christmas Concert"\$350

The Hospice Holiday Promotion was a success, raising over \$12,000 for Essential Care for Children, Hospice Buffalo's pediatric homecare program. More than 700 Share the Bear teddy bears and 2,000 snowflakes were sold at the Walden Galleria Mall, the Hospice Mitchell Campus and all Fantastic Sams locations during December. Special thanks to Fantastic Sams and the Hospice Volunteers for all of their help on another successful promotion.

REGISTER ONLINE AT HOSPICEMEMORIALWALK.COM

Join Close to 3,000 Walkers on Sunday, May 22, 2011 at the Erie Canal Harbor Central Wharf

(next to HSBC Arena and the Naval Park)

HOSPICE
MEMORIAL WALK



By **Bill Kirsch,**
a Hospice Volunteer, and Hospice
Memorial Walk Committee Member

The Hospice Memorial Walk was always a favorite of my wife, Jane Ann. Inspired by the way Hospice treated her mother; Jane Ann joined Hospice as a volunteer in 1999. From her first year as a volunteer up until her death in January of 2010, she participated with great enthusiasm in every Walk. She loved to get her friends involved and from the start she had me raising money. Her involvement actually got me to participate and also to eventually become a Hospice Volunteer. Her joy at being able to raise money and participate in this event was always a central activity in her eleven years as a volunteer.

Along with the Hospice Spring Bouquet Sale and the Walk, she spent time every week as a volunteer, first at Life Transitions Center and then in the Hospice In-Patient Unit or "unit" as she so lovingly called it. Being able to assist in Hospice's "plan for living" made her feel a part of God's plan. Always smiling and cheerful she brought a daily dose of happiness to those who crossed her path. It was this experience that helped her so much when her time to be part of that cancer is never good. Jane Ann was scared and we did not know what to do, but this is where Hospice is at its best! Good friends and caring staff not only pointed her in the right direction but they also actually helped us in many of the decisions and requirements necessary



for treatment. From the initial diagnosis of Liposarcoma cancer in June of 2007 until her passing on January 2, 2010 she fought the good fight. Supported by family and her very good friends at Hospice she never lost her zest for life. Ever thankful, she was able to participate in her last Walk in May of 2009 and was able to work as a volunteer right up until the time she entered Hospice home care in November of 2009.

People are what make Hospice great and those people helped her so very much. How do you measure the value of the staff, volunteers and physicians or the members of Team Five who helped through home care or all those who helped make her passing one of dignity? The promise of "a plan for living" came to fruition and her time in the "unit" was one of peace, dignity, and serenity. Her passing was pain free and as she so wanted it to be, God granted her wish to be able to leave this world in the loving care of Hospice.

We walked in her memory in 2010 and inspired by her, we were able to raise a great deal of money. We look forward to doing the same this year and every year. Thank you Hospice!

Register Online Today at
HospiceMemorialWalk.com
and start fundraising today!

TRIBUTE GIFTS TO HOSPICE

Many contributors help Hospice provide its excellent and essential services to patients and their families in our community through tribute gifts. Memorial gifts offer a meaningful expression of one's sympathy, love and respect when remembering family members and friends. We are particularly grateful to those who designate the Hospice Foundation of W.N.Y. as beneficiary of memorials encouraging donations be made in memory of their loved one. Appropriate notification and acknowledgment of all memorial gifts is sent to both the family and the donor. Unrestricted gifts of this kind help Hospice continue to provide special care and support to patients with advanced illness and their families.

Space limitations permit only the single listing of donations of \$50 or more per donor made to Hospice between October 1 through December 31, 2010, in memory of those listed below. Tribute gifts made to the Light-A-Life Appeal are not listed below. To the family and friends of those remembered, we express our condolences. If there is an error or omission, please call the Hospice Foundation at (716) 686-8090.

LISTING OF MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of...

Muriel H. Abell

Mr. George L. Abell

Frank J. Abraham

Ms. Robin M. Beane & TJ Beane

Nicholas P. Acanfora, Sr.

Mrs. Carmela Acanfora

Adele Achramovitch

Mr. Alfred H. Achramovitch

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Mr. Jeffrey Almeter

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Ms. Barbara Perez

Joel W. Amendolea

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Monsignor Richard S. Amico
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Affiliates of The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care are governed by the State of New York and most services are covered by a majority of insurance companies, including Medicare/Medicaid.

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