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# The Gift of Joy and Celebration



It's always so heartwarming when the staff at Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo have the honor of helping to orchestrate a meaningful celebration with our patients and their families. The joy of a wedding, the arrival of a newborn for a family member, the graduation of a child, or the anniversary of a couple can be such a healing experience in the midst of times bearing such unimaginable sorrow and loss. We recently had such an experience, which left the patient and his family, as well as our staff, grateful for this organization and the powerful work that is done here on a daily basis.

Darwin was a gentleman in his early 60s, who had battled a life-limiting bone marrow condition complicated by several other medical conditions, including advanced heart failure. He was admitted to an outside hospital for worsening heart failure. His hospital course was prolonged and marked by many setbacks and complications. When it became





# Foundation Update



Elizabeth Siderakis

We are pleased to share the spring edition of our Journeys newsletter. As 2021 closed and we considered all that occurred in the past year, it was extraordinary to reflect on the commitment of our entire community. Even during the most challenging times of the pandemic, our clinical teams worked tirelessly

to care for patients and support their loved ones. In the pages that follow, you can read about just a few of the many ways they assisted in creating lasting memories for members of the Hospice community, from hosting a wedding in the Mary & Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Inpatient Unit to making arrangements for a child in the Essential Care for Children program to take her first-ever school bus ride. We welcomed new colleagues, introduced new programs, and started a new tradition on campus with the planting of the signature tree for the annual Light-A-Life ceremony. Volunteers assisted with various projects and activities and worked to make the holiday season special. We even welcomed the "bell ladies" back and put the bell-writing tradition back in place! Donations of toys, food, clothing, gift cards, and more poured in to support our families in need during the

holidays, while philanthropic support from the community at large was outstanding—exceeding our expectations for a year filled with stress, pressure, and concern.

As the snow melts and spring approaches, the Foundation is energized and excited to think about the future. There is promise and hope to get back to the activities and events that have been cherished by the community for many years. Already, many of you have been busy at work, taking pre-sale orders and volunteering for Bouquet Sale week. Teams are forming for the annual Memorial Walk, and we can't wait to see many of you down at Canalside, walking together in memory of your loved ones. I am especially excited to be present and participate in my first experience at the walk since joining the Foundation team.

This year's spring awakening is just the beginning of more connection with our community. We collectively thank you for believing in us, investing in us, and supporting our mission. May spring bring you days filled with sunshine, warmth, and a beautiful Hospice spring bouquet!

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Elizabeth Siderakis Executive Vice President, Hospice Foundation

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clear that further interventions and aggressive treatment were no longer feasible, he and his family opted to pursue hospice care. There were a number of significant symptom issues that were negatively impacting his quality of life, and he was transferred to our Inpatient Unit for further management and care.

The first priority was improving the patient's comfort by addressing his pain and helping him to finally get some sound, restful sleep, as it had been weeks since he last slept well. While speaking with Darwin, it became guite clear, guite guickly, that he had one piece of unfinished business—one hope that was weighing on his mind and heart. Darwin had a lifelong loving relationship with a woman named Patricia. They had known and loved each other since they were young, and despite life's circumstances pulling them in different directions, marrying now made perfect sense and would make their relationship complete. Both Darwin and Patty had their hearts set on getting married, and both recognized that the gift of time was limited and fading quickly.

Everyone involved wanted to make the event extra special for them and their families, so that the joyful memory would provide some measure of consolation when the inevitable loss transpired.

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Once the staff realized what the couple was hoping for, the wedding planning commenced. Patty wasn't envisioning anything extraordinary. However, it is moments and celebrations such as this that our staff enjoy participating in, all in support of the patient and their family. Everyone



Darwin and Patricia on their wedding day

involved wanted to make the event extra special for them and their families, so that the joyful memory would provide some measure of consolation when the inevitable loss transpired.

It was clear that the wedding would need to take place within the next day or so if Darwin was going to be able to engage in and appreciate the wedding ceremony. What usually takes months or years of planning, our teams pulled together within 24 hours. Multiple departments worked together to ensure every detail, from decorations to flowers to photography and music, was carefully considered for the couple. Our Facilities team rearranged furniture, HIU (Hospice Inpatient Unit) staff provided flowers and helped set up the room, Housekeeping provided table linens, Dietary staff provided cupcakes, and the Volunteer department provided decorations and sparkling grape juice.

Darwin's father is a pastor and was more than up to the task of presiding over the ceremony. Three sisters served as witnesses and ring bearers. The ceremony itself was poignant and powerful. Both participants and staff were deeply moved by this profound expression of love and connection. Not only was this a special day for Darwin, Patty, and their family, but it was just as special for our employees to witness and experience.

### BOARD UPDATE Foundation Board Appointment



Michael Thompson

The Hospice Foundation would like to welcome Michael Thompson as a new member of the Board of Trustees. Michael has over 35 years of senior-level experience in the food/beverage and retail industries with proven success in marketing/sales, labor relations, finance, and human resources. Over the course of his career, Michael has worked at companies such as Delaware North Companies, Boston Concessions Group, Inc, and Aramark Corporation, LLC. After being away from Buffalo for 17 years, he and his wife Claudia are back in Buffalo, and he spends his days serving as a professional consultant and enjoying time with family and friends. Michael has spent years serving the Buffalo community as a board member with some of the finest cultural and service organizations. He is excited to be a Hospice Foundation board member and plans to engage in the volunteer program when the time is right.

### STAFF APPOINTMENT Moshood Omotayo, MD, PhD, Director of Research



Moshood Omotayo, MD, PhD Director of Research

Dr. Omotayo is a public health scientist with experience in design and evaluation of clinical and public health research. He has worked with interdisciplinary teams of clinical and behavioral scientists to design and implement research and evaluation projects in a variety of settings. With expertise in program evaluation, epidemiological analyses, and evidence synthesis, he has over 20 publications in high impact journals. Dr. Omotayo has degrees in medicine, public health, and epidemiology and completed his post-doctoral training at SUNY at Buffalo.

Dr. Omotayo was an instructor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and before joining us, he worked at Massachusetts General Hospital. When asked about his new position, Dr. Omotayo replied, "I am excited by the opportunity to return to work in Buffalo, as well as the breadth of impactful research opportunities that Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo presents. I look forward to working alongside the dedicated colleagues across the organization and the greater community to conduct research with the goal of strengthening the evidence base to provide outstanding clinical care, as well as innovative educational and care delivery programs at Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo."

# Spring Awakening... Time for Reflection

#### The beauty of living in Western New York is the ability to experience four very different seasons every year.

Many love one season over another, and often, one season is preferred or even disliked. Some find summer too short and winter too long or vice versa. One thing that is for sure is that each season prepares itself for the next. Trees dropping leaves in fall for winter and then blooming again in the spring, which is upon us now. As spring draws closer, we inevitably find ourselves looking for those first little signs of reawakening...those first moments when you spot a faint spray of light green in the trees when leaves begin to bud.

Those first moments when we realize that we've turned the corner on seasonal change are nothing short of magical. Spring is a magical time of year in which we can see colors of the rainbow flowering, and garden centers begin to sell those brave few plants that don't mind the remnants of chilled air—these are the days of greatest anticipation and emotion. They are moments in which we have the greatest possibility to look back over our cold months and lovingly remember the warmth that came before it. We can look forward to a new season of sunshine as it begins to unfold right before us.

Spring is the perfect liminal moment—neither winter nor summer, it rests betwixt and between and transforms our skies from gray to blue. It is the perfect time to look back in a way that can help us look forward—allowing anticipation to propel us into a season of renewal. In short, as spring begins to bud and flower, we have the same opportunity to both reflect and renew. It is the perfect time to look around you and mimic nature's reawakening with positive change. What do you want to be? What do you want to feel? How do you want to move through the months or even moments ahead? Now is the perfect time to reflect and to consider a myriad of changes both big and small and to focus on bringing them to fruition.

[Spring] is the perfect time to look back in a way that can help us look forward...

As I walk through the Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo campus each spring and enjoy its many gardens and flowering trees, I am reminded of exactly this dynamic in life—the beautiful liminal moment that is spring. Letting go of the cold dark of winter to embrace something new, something renewed, something growth-filled. As you progress through this transitional season of change and renewal, I'd like to invite you to do the same. Whether you enjoy a vacation out in the larger world or simply gaze out a window to look at what is before you, take a moment to breathe in a bit of spring and let that breath—no matter how deep or shallow—offer you a measure of reflection and renewal.

> — Adam Scheldt Director of Spiritual Care

# **Perspectives** Corner

Elizabeth S. Gurney Director, Corporate Philanthropy, KeyBank; Director, First Niagara Foundation



# My Vow

My mother died in 1982 without hospice care. At that time, Hospice Buffalo was in its very early stages, and we did not know much about the program. My siblings and I were young—late teens to early 20s and had no clue what was happening, how to help our mom, or how to deal with our own feelings, emotions, pain, and grief. Our stoic father did the best he could, but we all had a very difficult time during her illness and following her untimely death. I vowed then that I would do anything I could to make sure that all patients and families would have the opportunity to choose hospice care when faced with end of life of a loved one.

Elizabeth S. Gurney

Over the ensuing years, I had the great privilege to serve both on the Board of Directors and the staff as Hospice Buffalo grew into one of the best and most comprehensive palliative care centers in the country.

Twenty-eight years later, my father chose hospice care when his cancer returned with a vengeance, and he knew he could not go it alone. Over the course of his journey, he (and our family) had the full benefit of the myriad services Hospice offered and took advantage of them all. There was remarkable medical care, led by doctors Megan Farrell and Christopher Kerr, as well as the amazing nurses who came to our home—adjusting meds, providing comfort and care, and answering all of our questions. There was also physical therapy, pastoral care support, and, the highlight for him, his regular expressive therapy visits, filled with song and conversation with the talented Abby Unger. We had several visits to the Inpatient Unit on the Mitchell campus for more invasive care and welcomed family respite. Thanks to the Hospice team, he spent the final year of his life receiving compassionate care and personal attention, allowing him to live his days in peace and as comfortably as possible...physically, mentally, and emotionally. Patient and family were informed,

counseled, and supported. We knew what to do, what to expect, and had the support of the entire Hospice team every step of the way.

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We knew what to do, what to expect, and had the support of the entire Hospice team every step of the way.

We are but one of the thousands of grateful families that have benefitted directly from the caring and compassionate support of the team members at Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo. Our gratitude is deep. We appreciate and thank all those who choose to dedicate your life's work to hospice care—providing end-of-life care to patients and supporting their families and loved ones along the journey!

# Staff — Who We Are

MEET THE DIETARY TEAM



*Left to right:* Patrick Murphy, Natalie Bodekor, and Jacob Hennigan

It has been said many times and even scientifically proven that food is a means not only for sustenance and nutritional health but also to help provide comfort and joy.

The Dietary team at Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo is dedicated to meeting both of those food goals in the meals they prepare and serve.

They are a small but mighty team, comprised of Natalie Bodekor, manager and two full-time cooks, Jacob Hennigan and Patrick Murphy, as well as one part-time cook, Nicole Pasnik. Daily, the team works together to prepare and serve freshly made patient trays for breakfast, lunch, and dinner through an open menu for patients to choose what they wish between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. They share a no-holds-barred attitude. They will even serve pizza for breakfast at 6 a.m. if that is what a patient desires, and they have been known to make a trip or two to the store in order to prepare items not listed on the menu.

Natalie said it is not uncommon to get requests to fulfill cravings, like cheesecake or pumpkin pie, and she feels it is their job to satisfy such desires. Natalie commented, "It is so great when we hear nurses or aides tell us that patients couldn't believe how good the cheesecake was or how happy someone was because we had pumpkin bars when a patient was looking for pumpkin pie...to be able to give them something that may be able to make the day a little bit brighter is so rewarding!"

The Dietary team prides themselves on preparing fresh, handmade meals that are not part of processed packages. Even mashed potatoes are peeled and handmade on site.

Guest trays are prepared per order as well for visiting family members. Natalie fondly said "We are thrilled to be able to provide an opportunity for family members to still share a delicious meal together while with us on campus."

Natalie explained that the Dietary team's philosophy is to help make every patient and family member feel special by carefully plating every tray to look as good as it tastes. Their goal is to provide as much comfort and care through meals and plate presentation as is provided by our clinical staff. Natalie added, "Working here at Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo has really opened my eyes to needs of people in healthcare. We always try to think about if each patient was one of our family members, how would I want to prepare food for him/her?"

In addition to tending to the on-campus dietary needs, this passionate team is also responsible for carrying out the "Birthday Brigade," which is a program designed to provide homemade, decorated cakes, pies, and cupcakes for home-based patients celebrating birthdays or anniversaries. The delicious goodies are then delivered by home health aides, social workers, and volunteers to patients' homes.

The Dietary team also prepares condolence carts with coffee and pastry for on-site family members. Holidays are a busy time for this department as they prepare meals for home-based patients and families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. They even offer an uncooked option, whereby they shop for all ingredients for the family to cook together. Meals and grocery items are then happily delivered by volunteers.

The Dietary team is at the heart of so many wonderful ways that patients and families are touched, and Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo is so grateful to have such a warm, caring, and passionate crew!

## **Donor Spotlight**

JERRY THOMAS

Jerry and his late wife Terry

# A Gift for His Gratitude

Jerry Thomas was in awe of what he describes as outstanding care provided to Terry, his wife of 69 years, at the Hospice Inpatient Unit. Jerry described the Inpatient Unit as a place that looked and felt like home and was clearly not a sterile hospital room. Jerry even recalls how Terry was changed into fresh nightgowns—and not hospital gowns—every day, which he felt was very special. He was touched by the attention to detail of the staff, who assured that his wife was kept comfortable and that she wasn't in any pain. He explained that his first inclination was to get up and pitch in to help, but he quickly learned she was well taken care of, which allowed him to be the loving husband by his wife's side, to hold her hand and provide loving comfort.

Jerry and his family spent many hours visiting on campus, and they soon began enjoying the delicious meals that were not only served to his wife but were available to family for purchase as well. They all grew to rely on and look forward to ordering from the menu of handmade nutritional options and other goodies, allowing them to remain in the unit together, sharing meals and quality time as a family.

Jerry said he is so grateful for all Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo has done for not only his beloved wife and family but also for his brother-in-law, brother, neighbor, and niece. He has entrusted so many loved ones into Hospice care and feels it is now a vital part of our culture. Jerry expressed that he will never forget all the care and hospitality extended to his family members.

It is for these reasons that Jerry decided to give back to Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo with a very generous donation. He requested that his gift recognize the extraordinary efforts of the on-campus dietary team that he and his family so greatly appreciated. A plaque outside the kitchen doors now hangs—acknowledging Jerry's generosity and the memory of his beloved wife Terry.



## In Honor of The Kitchen Staff Support Given By Terry & Jerry Thomas 2021

Jerry, now 90, is a veteran who spent many years in the Air Force taking care of planes. He later became an electrical engineer, working at IBM. He helped to build one of the first computers that worked off of integrated circuits. He also trailblazed as he built a 360 computer as well. His wife Terry was the second female agent to be hired at Allstate. She retired from there after 20 years of service. Jerry and Terry met in 1949 on a blind date, when Jerry left the Coast Guard and came back to Buffalo. They went on to have two sons, a daughter, and three granddaughters, along with several great grandchildren, and the rest is a beautiful history!

*Left:* An up-close picture of Jerry and Terry's plaque *Below:* Jerry with his son Jerry, Jr., and the kitchen staff Patrick, Natalie, and Jacob



# Volunteer Spotlight

# **Bulb** Planting

April showers may bring May flowers, but the generosity of Tom and Pamela Reilly will also help the blossoms that come this spring on the Hospice Mitchell Campus. With the desire to help beautify our campus after a long Buffalo winter, Tom and Pamela asked if they could make a gift, which would purchase bulbs to plant in the fall. The answer was, of course, yes and thank you! Pairing the generosity of Tom and Pamela with our incredible can-do and will-do volunteers, this past fall, we planted hundreds of bulbs to bloom in the spring, including tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and more! This thoughtful gesture will undoubtedly conjure warmth from our visitors. We are so appreciative of this kindness from Pamela, Tom, and the volunteers who helped make this happen.

Below: Jim Hickey

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# Hearts for Hospice



Hearts for Hospice is an initiative that was started in 2015 by the Greater Kansas Needlepoint Guild to fulfill a need at a local hospice center. Individuals of the guild made and donated embroidered hearts. Upon a resident's passing, a heart is placed on their door, providing a visual reminder to those nearby to be respectful of those in mourning. The embroidered heart can then be given to a family member as a keepsake.

Gail Klanian (pictured above) oversees the South Towns Needle Nuts, a local chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. She first read about this initiative in a monthly newsletter and was immediately moved by the idea. She knew she wanted the local guild to partner with a local Hospice.

Gail contacted us in early fall to propose the idea. We were fully on board! She sought the talents and support of the 30 members of the guild to help craft the hearts that would be donated to our organization. Some members shared how Hospice helped their loved ones, making this project even more meaningful for them. In October, their chapter meeting was turned into a working meeting, allowing members to embroider more hearts. A template was provided to ensure all hearts are uniform in size, yet each member is encouraged to design their heart individually,

using materials and colors of their choice.

Following the meeting, Gail was excited to drop the hearts off at our campus. The South Towns Needle Nuts members donated 26 hearts! Each heart was as unique as the individual who crafted it. The donated hearts were given to our Inpatient Unit staff to use as needed. Loved ones are very grateful to keep these as a cherished remembrance of their loved one for years to come.

When we see a heart, it not only serves as a reminder to be respectful of those friends and family members in mourning, but it is also a touching reminder that members of our community care just as much as we do about our patients and their families. Thank you!

# A Golden Opportunity

Goldie, age 14, is enrolled in our Essential Care for Children pediatric palliative care program. She has been in our program since 2014, when she was just seven years old. While with Essential Care, Goldie has benefited from the team's guidance, support, and advocacy, which have helped to enhance her physical, mental, and social well-being, while also supporting her family. She has also benefited from expressive therapy services such as music and massage therapy over the years.

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Goldie previously went to a small private school but more recently has been homeschooled. She has never been able to ride the school bus, due to multiple allergies and a high risk for severe reactions. During a visit, Goldie was asked about her dreams and wishes. Her nurse brought up several hypothetical scenarios, such as a pool or a trip, yet her greatest wish was to ride on a school bus.

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Goldie's Essential Care nurse, Deborah Powers, knew she had to do something to grant Goldie's wish, so this past fall, she reached out to WNY Bus Company, and they eagerly agreed to take Goldie on her first school bus ride. Goldie was so excited, and her parents were incredibly grateful for this golden opportunity!

Thank you to the Essential Care for Children Team and WNY Bus Company for helping to make Goldie's dream come true!





# Share Your Story

The Hospice Buffalo team has the privilege of providing compassionate, end-of-life care for those in need within our community. We provide comfort and support, allowing the patient and their loved ones to share moments that are meaningful—moments that provide cherished memories. Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo has created the Grateful Families program as an outlet to not only honor the loved ones we've lost but also to honor those within Hospice Buffalo for the care and support they provided. This program encourages families and caregivers to simply send their notes of gratefulness to staff. To learn more about Grateful Families or to donate today, please visit HospiceBuffalo.com/Contact-Referrals/Share-My-Story.



"When my wife was transferred to the facility, I felt like I had failed her. But as I sat by her bedside the next day, it dawned on me that for the first time in nearly 28 months, I was able to simply be her husband. No longer a caregiver worried about meds and appointments. And further, as I watched the Hospice Team care for her, I realized that there was simply no way that I would have been able to give her the same level of care. I am so very impressed with everyone who helped care for my wife. You are all truly angels."

> With Gratitude, Doug Schuler

> > JOURNEYS VOLUME 1, 2022 | 13



*Left to right:* Jill Fadule, Phil Hubbell, and Phil Hubbell, Jr.

### A Cupboard That Is Anything But Bare

When the Angel Fund was first created, its purpose was to provide support to the less fortunate patients and families we serve with things such as food, clothing, supplies, utilities, and other basic needs. As the need for this fund grew, and the community embraced its importance, the ways in which the Angel Fund supports our patients and families has grown as well. While we continue to help provide most basic needs, the Angel Fund also allows us to celebrate with our patients and their loved ones in things such as anniversaries, birthdays, even weddings! During the holidays, the Angel Fund helps provide meals and gifts while spreading cheer to those who need it most.

This past fall, we added another component to the Angel Fund with the creation of the Hubbell Cupboard. A "cupboard" stocked with the more common essentials provides our clinicians with access to immediately deliver these items to those in need. We are thankful to the Josephine Goodyear Foundation, Totally Buffalo Cares, and Phil Hubbell and his family for their support in helping make this stocked cupboard a reality.

If you would like to support the Angel Fund, please visit HospiceBuffalo.com/ Giving/Giving-Societies.





## Did You Know?

Many couples are choosing to make a donation to Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo in lieu of traditional wedding favors.

Remember a loved one who may only be with you in spirit on your special day. Give the gift of compassionate care and use your celebration to support Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo's mission while thoughtfully remembering your loved one(s) on your wedding day. For more information and options available, please contact the Hospice Foundation Special Events team at (716) 989-2010.



# Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo Spring Appeal

This season, we will be introducing our next fundraising campaign. Donations raised will support our Essential Care for Children program. Essential Care for Children is our home-based palliative (symptom control) care program that provides coordination of medical services as well as psycho-social, emotional, and spiritual support to seriously ill children and their families.

We will share the journey of two of our pediatric patients and their families. Their stories will highlight how Essential Care for Children helps improve quality of life by improving pain and symptom management while also providing family support to help cope with the stress of dealing with a serious illness. When you receive our appeal in the mail, we hope you find its message inspiring as well as educational. We certainly hope you consider giving to help affected patients and families thrive. To make a gift in support of our Essential Care for Children program today, please visit Bit.ly/Donate-2022.

### Why I Give

Please join the many donors who have supported Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo.



John Wabick

Jock and Betsy Mitchell



Connie Perna

Jane Mogavero



Scott Bieler

Maggie Best

WE'RE HIRING!

# Join the Team

Visit HospiceBuffalo.com/Careers and apply today!



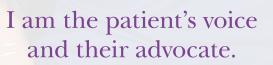
The support Hospice provides me is unlimited.

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HAYLEE HOSPICE HOME HEALTH AIDE, 4 YEARS

"

16 | HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE BUFFALO



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LAURA HOSPICE HOME HEALTH AIDE, 12 YEARS

"

# WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT AND GUIDE YOU

# Did You Know?

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AARP data shows that **one in five people** in the U.S. are providing care to an adult with health or functional needs. This number has increased by 3% in the last three years.



More family caregivers report their own health is fair to poor. This has **grown from 17% to 21%** over the past five years.

# Community Speaker's *Bureau*

Request a speaker for your workplace, faith community, service organization, library, senior center, school, or club.

#### Presentation Offerings:

- Family/Caregiver Resources & Support
- Care Options for Those Faced with Serious Illness
- Spiritual Care- Finding Peace, Meaning & Comfort
- Hospice Care versus Palliative Care
- Sharing Healthcare Wishes
- Advance Care Planning- A Gift for Yourself and Your Loved Ones
- Self-Care Tips
- Coping with Grief & Loss

To request a speaker, call (716) 901-0294 or visit HospiceBuffalo.com.

We provide care, support, advocacy, and education for the Western New York community.

# Hospice Spring Bouquet Sale

## Presented by KeyBank 🖓 🕋

# Save the Date

Spring Bouquet Sale March 9 – 12 , 2022 Kick off the start of spring in WNY by purchasing a Hospice Bouquet! Our Standard Bouquets are \$12, and our Tribute Bouquets are \$35. With every Tribute Bouquet purchase, a \$12 bouquet is donated to a Hospice patient. For more information, please visit HospiceSpringBouquetSale.com or call (716) 989-2010.

#### Wednesday, March 9

Paula's Donuts: All Locations Hospitals: Buffalo General Hospital/Oishei Children's Hospital Other Sites: Buffalo Medical Group (Essjay Rd. &

Buffalo Rd.)/Cheektowaga Senior Center/Seneca One/ Participating Florists

TRUCK AM: Excelsior Orthopedics/Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center/Windsong Radiology TRUCK PM: ECMC/OLV Human Services

#### Thursday, March 10

Paula's Donuts: All Locations

Hospitals: Buffalo General Hospital

Downtown: Fountain Plaza Lobby/Larkin at Exchange/ Larkin Center of Commerce

Other Sites: AppleTree Business Park/Buffalo Medical Group (Essjay & Buffalo Rd.)/Cheektowaga Senior Center/ Linde /WNY Urology Associates/Participating Florists

TRUCK AM: Excelsior Orthopedics (Redtail Dr., Transit Rd.) TRUCK PM: Corner of Elmwood & Bidwell/Main St.

East Aurora



#### Friday, March 11

Paula's Donuts: All Locations Hospitals: Buffalo General Hospital/Oishei Children's Hospital Downtown: Larkin at Exchange/Larkin Center of Commerce Other Sites: DENT Neurology/UB Capen Hall/ Participating Florists TRUCK AM: ECMC/Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center TRUCK PM: National Fuel/Premier Wine & Spirits (Maple Rd., Transit Rd., Amelia Dr.)

#### Saturday, March 12\*

Paula's Donuts: All Locations Other Sites: Participating Florists

\*while supplies last

Visit HospiceSpringBouquetSale.com for specific times of sale locations.

# A Devoted Wife's Commitment to Give Back Through the

Hospice Memorial Walk

### Debbie Williams has been participating in our Hospice Memorial Walk for many years.

Along with friends and family, she walks in memory of her husband, Bruce. Bruce had cancer in his larynx and passed in Hospice care on Christmas Day in 2018.

Debbie's story is a testament to the support and compassion Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo (HPCB) provides, even after a loved one has passed.

Debbie recalls, "After he (Bruce) passed, Hospice did not forget. They called the very next day to see how the family was doing and if there was anything they could do for us. After a few weeks, I received another phone call and a mailer inviting my family to a variety of grief sessions offered through Hospice."

Debbie decided to attend a group grief session, and she expressed that it was extremely helpful. "I learned I was not alone on how I felt, as losing one's partner or spouse is one of the major stressors in our lives," said Debbie. "The people in the group were feeling the same way I was, and, as a group, we discussed how to cope with our feelings. It helped me move on without my



Debbie Williams (center), and her family, at the Hospice Memorial Walk.

beloved partner, and it helped me realize how important Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo is to our community."

Debbie went on to say, "I realized a few things over this past year. One, I miss Bruce so much, but he is still with me. I just can't see him, but I can feel his presence. Two, Hospice is an awesome organization! I will continue to support it so that others receive the same support services that Bruce did. Finally, it made me realize I am not alone. Hospice is here if I need them as I navigate my grief. I may feel lonely sometimes and cry, and that is okay—it is me coping and healing. It may take months or years, but I learned it is healthy to grieve, as it is a testament to my love for Bruce."

So, to honor Bruce and his legacy, Debbie has vowed to walk every year for Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo. Debbie added, "I want them (HPCB) to be there for every family and individual who needs them."



### Register today for the 2022 Hospice Memorial Walk, Sunday, May 15.

Visit HospiceMemorialWalk.com for more information.









# Thank You to Our Community!

Thank you to our extraordinary community and volunteers for creating such a special holiday season for patients and their families! Together...

- 300 Thanksgiving meals were delivered and served
- 334 Christmas meals and/or gifts were delivered
- 204 gift cards, totaling \$7,700, were delivered to Hospice and Essential Care families
- \$4,000 was raised through Hospice Buffalo and Angel Ornament sale
- Over 1,300 Light-A-Life bells were sold, along with 230 memorial tree tags and 27 evergreen centerpieces, which helped to raise \$115,000

We could not have achieved this impact without the support of our generous donors and volunteers!

20 | HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE BUFFALO

# Donate Your Flowers

Consider donating floral arrangements from a funeral, memorial service, wedding, or other event to be re-gifted for our patients and dedicated clinicians. Flowers are reassembled and delivered throughout our Inpatient Unit. What a beautiful way to pass on the memories of your loved one or that special day, while bringing surprise and joy to someone in need.

Please contact the Hospice Foundation at (716) 686-8090 to coordinate a floral donation.

# In Lieu of Flowers...

You may consider designating Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo as the beneficiary of memorial gifts in lieu of flowers. Doing so offers a meaningful way to honor your loved one, while supporting the Hospice mission and helping others.

Simply ask your Funeral Director to include the following in the obituary notice:

"The family requests memorial donations be made to Hospice Foundation, PO Box 590, Buffalo, NY 14240 or give online at HospiceBuffalo.com."

# **Every Donation Matters**

Donate today to help make a difference. Visit **HospiceBuffalo.com/Giving** or use the envelope provided in this edition.

The Hospice Foundation mission is to provide support for Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo's affiliate network of care services and the operational needs of each corporate component to ensure financial stability, as well as the funding for future program development.



#### COMMUNITY EVENTS UPDATE

We are so grateful for our Hospice Helpers who continue to help us with our fundraising efforts. Thank you to the following community groups and individuals who organized events to benefit HPCB in August through December 2021. Events raising \$250 or more are listed below.

TV Raffle Fundraiser, Jennifer Fedus & Eva Subjeck	\$3,020
Fun Run for Kids, Town of Newstead	\$1,768
Karyn Reese Chocolate Fundraiser, Karyn Reese Psychic Medium & The Sweet Whisk	\$1,600
Motorcycle Run, Jeff's Pit Crew	\$1,525
Motorcycle Run, Ride for Katie Jo	\$1,300
Don & Nancy Diem Memorial Baseball Pool, Thomas Diem	\$800
Adorable Child Portrait Contest, Patti Looney Productions, LLC	\$425
Community Give Back Night, Spruce on Main	\$250



### A Sweet Donation

This past year, Karyn Reece Psychic-Medium & Alexa Zappia partnered up with The Sweet Whisk to hold a fundraiser for Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo! Together they created the Karyn Reece Chocolate Box, to match the Hospice colors. 50% of the proceeds from August 12 through September 20 went back to Hospice. In total, they raised \$1,600! Thank you to Karyn, Alexa, and The Sweet Whisk!

Left to right: Alexa Zappia, Emily Carrier, and Karyn Reece



#### FACEBOOK **FUNDRAISERS**

Thank you to our Facebook Fundraisers from August – December 2021 who raised over \$250!

Jessica Briatico Katie Creenan Kelley Culmer Kim Dry

**Rebecca** Flint **Chanelle Monique** Julie Wisner Jackie Pax Valente



Rebecca Flint (second from right) raised over \$800 for Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo this year! She raised these funds in memory of her mother, Shelley Malinowski (center).

22 | HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE BUFFALO



# Join us June 14, 2022, for our 2nd Annual Hospice Day of Giving!

It's a special day of raising much needed funds and spreading awareness to our WNY community. Join us on our social media sites throughout the day, and head to HospiceBuffalo.com/Day-Giving to see what we have in store.

#OneMissionOneDay #HospiceDayOfGiving



#### **Connect with Us**

Together, we can develop a care plan that supports you and your loved one. Give us a call today to learn how we can help at (716) 686-8000.

# together in dignity.

Thank you to those who have chosen to support Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo patient care through memorial and tribute gifts. This is such a meaningful way to sustain our mission while offering an expression of one's sympathy and respect to family members and friends.

To the loved ones of those remembered, we extend our sincerest condolences.

Listed below are one-time gifts of \$100 or more received from July 1 – December 31, 2021 that were made in memory of a single tribute. Please know that with proper information provided at the time of your donation, notification of all gifts, regardless of amount, is sent to the family of those being remembered.

If there is an error or omission, we are sincerely sorry. Please contact the Hospice Foundation at (716) 686-8090 so we may address this.

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Anonymous Mr. Brian Badillo Mr. Daniel Bifaro Sanjay Mehta Shelby Spell Mr. Braedon Unthank

Christopher Kerr, MD Ms. Jane Mogavero Nancy H. Nielsen, MD, PhD

Mr. Frank E. Kyler Slippman Charitable Fund

Josephine A. Ledwin\* Donald T. Ledwin

Mrs. Maureen M. Lehsten Mr. Horace A. Gioia

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lentini Mrs. May Pleskow

Mrs. Bonnie M. Leto Family of Florence Leto Robert Lindenfeld Janet Lindenfeld

Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Lindenfeld Jim & Kim Lindenfeld

Frank F. Mantione\* The Karles, Lackeys, Kumiegas, Judy & Karen

Mrs. Catharine E. McGovern Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Eder

Ms. Jane Mogavero Mrs. Mary Jo O'Sullivan

Mr. Robert Paganelli Mr. Roger Gross

Waylon Palumbo Mrs. Nancy B. Stevens

Nathan Pitillo Amy, Justin, Jay & Brody The Altherr Family The Clarke Family

Matilda Renegar Raymond L. & Mary C. Piscitelli

Alice J. Seeley\* Bob & Renee Bitterman

Joseph Sgroi Sgroi Wealth Advisory Group, LLC

Justine West Deborah McIvor

Mrs. Mary M. Wilson Ms. Hazel Banks

\*— Deceased



225 Como Park Boulevard Buffalo, New York 14227-1480

#### HospiceBuffalo.com

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL REQUESTED IN-HOME DELIVERY MARCH 1 – 4, 2022



### Save the Dates! HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE BUFFALO 2022 EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 Hospice Memorial Walk

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022 Hospice Day of Giving

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022 Summer Affair

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022 Harvest Fest

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022 Light-A-Life Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony

# Go Green!

#### Mail / Email Update

- To receive the Journeys newsletter electronically, email info@palliativecare.org
- To receive community and event updates, email info@palliativecare.org
- For volunteer opportunities, email volunteer@palliativecare.org or call (716) 989-2014
- To be removed from the mailing list, email info@palliativecare.org or call (716) 686-8090



### **Bouquet Sale**

March 9 – 12, 2022

Purchase a fresh bouquet of flowers for \$12.

For more information, visit HospiceSpringBouquetSale.com.