

Your support makes a difference
NEW! Hospice Alliance Donor Wall of Recognition Unveiled



Kathy Tenuta, volunteer, and Judy Walthers, Hospice Alliance Marketing Coordinator, look for loved ones memorialized on the Donor Wall of Recognition crafted for us by Insty-Prints.

If you haven't visited our Pleasant Prairie headquarters in awhile, we invite you to stop by to see our brand-new Donor Wall of Recognition.

This beautiful, glass-panel sculpture recognizes individuals and businesses that have supported Hospice Alliance by giving significant financial gifts (\$1,000 to more than \$20,000) from our inception through December 2013.

Four levels of recognition are signified by four colors:

Bronze, Copper, Silver and Gold, with Gold being the highest level.

At the end of each year additional donors will be added. Those already recognized on the wall will be moved to the next level based on their contribution level.

At the October event unveiling the wall Hospice Alliance Foundation President, Tom Tenuta, mentioned

a few of the accomplishments made possible by the donations of those recognized including the purchase of 8.6 acres in Pleasant Prairie for expansion.

Executive Director, Rita Hagen closed the evening with remarks about her vision for the future.

"Hospice Alliance has been a leader and innovator in hospice care since 1981. Our goal is, and has always been, to provide the best care possible," Hagen said.

"We will accomplish this through investments in training, technology and innovative care techniques."

"We are forever grateful for your generous support and that of every family who gives a donation. Your faithful support is what keeps us going and growing, and I thank you sincerely," Hagen said.

WINTER 2015

Hope NOTES...

Hospice Alliance™
 Ask for us by name

2015 Update

Thanks to your generosity in 2014, we cared for more people, offered more innovative services and continued to be the #1 non-profit hospice provider in our communities.

- 57,755 days of patient care provided, including 3,654 days in our Hospice Houses.
- Provided nearly 5,000 contacts to community residents seeking grief support.
- More than 800 patients experienced dignity and compassion at the end of life thanks to our care.
- More than 300 community residents attended Hospice Alliance Memorial Events.
- Dance/Movement Therapy provided patients with more than 400 hours of comfort, peace and joy.
- Joined the national "We Honor Veterans" program, formalizing our special recognition of veterans.
- Earned the prestigious Hospice Honors Award, for outstanding care. The award is based on ratings from families of hospices nationwide.

Gifts make wishes come true! Mr. B. Rides Again...

No one was more surprised than Mr. B's wife and daughter when the patient shared with our social worker that his end-of-life wishes included going horseback riding.

When people are facing the end of their lives, they often reminisce about the good times of their growing up years. That's exactly what happened between Mr. B. and Hospice Alliance social worker, Jessica Lewandowski.

While Mr. B.'s wife and daughter, Dawn, knew he loved watching westerns on TV, they had no idea he had lived on a horse farm and cherished that time among his favorite memories.

But as the still young-at-heart patient sat discussing his end-of-life goals with Jessica, an important part of the hospice journey, he began to share his love of riding and horses.

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Thanks to you and Willow Creek Ranch, Mr. B. fulfilled a longtime wish to relive memories of growing up on a ranch. Help us improve the lives of more people at the end of life. See page 2 for donation ideas.



CCB Technology!

Hospice Alliance was the grateful recipient of the CCB Technology "Employee Giving Program" in 2014. Thanks to you our hospice houses were filled with mixes for baking, products for cleaning and over 300 lbs of seed to attract more feathered friends to patients' windows.

If your company would like to donate, call (262) 652-4400.



ABOVE: Mike Langendorf, Operations Board President, accepted one of 10 boxloads of items donated by CCB, Inc. employees of Racine. Hospice Alliance was selected for the annual CCB "Employee Giving Program" in 2014. Thank you for choosing us and donating from our online Wish List!

BELOW: We can't say "thank you" enough times! This huge donation of cookie mixes, toiletries, plus coffee makers, crock pots and bird feeders brought more smiles than you will ever know.



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Hospice Alliance is your compassionate, community, non-profit hospice, incorporated in 1981.

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JOIN US: Saturday March 7, 2014 An Evening of Wishes Dinner Gala

Our most important fund-raiser of the year won't be the same without you! Please plan to join Hospice Alliance at the spectacular Club at Strawberry Creek, located on Hwy 50, 1/2 mile west on I-94.

A Roaring '20s theme will feature interactive entertainment with Piano Brew Dueling Pianos and the Guy Singer Dance Studio, silent and live auctions plus a sumptuous dinner and cash bar. The event will benefit our patients and families facing life-limiting illness or the loss of a loved one.

Donate, Sponsor and Attend!

- Donate a Raffle or Auction Item
- Sponsor the Event (businesses)
- Reserve Your Seats \$75 per person (Table of 10 - \$700)

Contact Megan Frazer: 262-652-4482 x 1253 or Mfrazer@hospicealliance.net



New Year's Reflection



Rita Hagen,
Executive Director

As we begin 2015, many of us may find ourselves facing a path for which we are not ready. A life-changing journey can be painful, and seemingly unbearable. The difficulty comes from feeling "out of control" of the situations governing our life.

For people facing life's final journey, Hospice Alliance is here. We put the decisions about how you or your loved one wish to live back in your control. There are many hospice providers in our area seeking to serve you. Only one consistently provides the highest quality, ethical and compassionate care—Hospice Alliance.

The Hospice Alliance story is truly amazing. A small group of concerned citizens had a vision and worked diligently to make that vision a reality. Our founders were pioneers in the hospice movement in the 1980s. Because of their dedication, Hospice Alliance has had the privilege of caring for nearly 12,000 people throughout Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties.

Thanks to your support we have been caring for loved ones and supporting families in coping with loss for nearly 35 years.

We are blessed that you partner with us in this mission and affirm our commitment to the communities we serve. Thank you for your faithfulness.

I wish you a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Warmly,

Your Gifts Improve Quality of Life

Help us bring more life to the days of our patients in 2015, by giving:

\$ 30.....Pays for 1-hour horseback ride or comforting lotions & toiletries for one patient.

\$ 56.....Pays for two weeks of rental for a wheelchair, enabling patients to be more mobile.

\$ 110...Sponsors a patient for a day in our Hospice House.

Go on our secure website to donate by credit card (hospicealliance.org) or use the enclosed envelope to send a check. Please make checks payable to Hospice Alliance Foundation, 10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd. Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158. *Thank You!*

Mr. B. Rides Again *continued from page 1*

After listening to Mr. B.'s boyhood tales, Jessica asked gently, "Would you like to go riding again?"

Mr. B. nodded in agreement and Jessica immediately began to put the wheels in motion. She called his physician and Hospice Alliance RN/case manager Carrie Nottingham to obtain the necessary approvals. She located nearby stables and spoke with the owners.

A week later on a warm August day,...

Thank you, Willow Creek Ranch and Jennifer Pape, for partnering with us to create a day of memories that will long be cherished by Mr. B.'s family.

Jessica, Carrie, Mr. and Mrs. B. and Dawn drove to Willow Creek Ranch in Burlington, WI. Willow Creek is a non-profit therapeutic riding center (www.willowcreekranch.org) that specializes in children and adults with special needs. Their mission is to improve quality of life through the use of equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT).

Thanks to Willow Creek owner, Jennifer Pape, and volunteers, Mr. B. was able to ride a gentle mare in the outdoor arena for nearly an hour.

From atop the saddle...

Mr. B. brushed the horse's mane just as he had after finishing a ride as a boy. With feet back on the ground, he fed the willing mare oats from a bright plastic pail.

Mrs. B., also a Hospice Alliance patient at the time, watched contentedly from a lawn chair in the shade as daughter Dawn took photographs to share with siblings.

"Thanks to all of you for making this such a special day for my dad and even my mom, commented daughter Lori on the Hospice Alliance Facebook post featuring one of the photos. "Each of you who made this happen is truly a blessing!"

"I'm delighted that Jessica, Carrie and all staff members are empowered to support patients in enjoying more quality of life every day," said Rita Hagen, Hospice Alliance Executive Director

"Creating memories like this is what Hospice Alliance's care is all about. The support of community members like you helps us make more patient wishes come true," Hagen said.



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Thank You for Donating Your Time & Talents in 2014



8th Annual Car Show & Craft Fair

More than \$14,000 was raised for patient care and family/community grief support thanks to volunteers Barb Pofahl, Linda Holly, over 80 car and craft show participants and seven community sponsors (see right). Barb and Linda, who organized the car show in memory of husband and father Phil "Firesuit" Pofahl, presented the "Best of Show" winners with an amazing trophy. Thank you for all you do for us!



Inspired by wildflowers sown by Ken Kohlmeier, Hospice Alliance Maintenance Manager, UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers created a "Butterfly Garden" at the Pleasant Prairie Hospice House. Plus MGV had it certified by Monarchs Watch. So nice!



Special Thanks to...

Volunteer fundraising organizers

of the Anita La Macchia "For the Love of Golf" Memorial Outing. We are so grateful to Julie, Joe and Teresa La Macchia, Bob Karnes and Hospice Alliance Board Member Mary Karnes, who raised \$40,000, which was split between Alzheimer's Association and Hospice Alliance.



Hospice Alliance was one of seven community charities to benefit from the generosity of Kenosha Rotary members in 2014. Our \$2,000 grant went toward the purchase of emergency patient lifts.

Celebrating 1 Year at the Racine House

Guests who attended our 1st Anniversary Open House at the Racine Hospice House enjoyed wine, cheese, signature home-baked cookies and inspiring remarks from speakers.

"I am often told by my clients and families about the positive impact the Racine Hospice House has had on our community," Hospice Alliance Board Member Michael Haubrich said. "That over 200 people have been cared for in this beautiful home-like facility is also testimony to the great need Hospice Alliance has filled here."

Rita Hagen, Executive Director added thoughtful insights about the differences in hospice care.

"Our houses offer 24/7 care, which is not covered by insurance plans,

Medicare or Medicaid. But care for all people is part of our mission – we never turn anyone away due to their inability to pay."

Hagen also quoted findings from an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, including:

- For-profit hospices are more likely to treat patients with lower care needs (less complicated diagnoses)
- For-profit hospices report longer lengths of stay than non-profit hospices
- 40% of Hospice Alliance patients are cared for at home; for-profit hospices care for significantly fewer patients at home.

"We are able to do this, thanks to



so many of you who regularly support our mission in some way – whether by volunteering your time and talents, financial donations, or purchasing items for our Hospice Houses – like the beautiful fountain here in our garden," Hagen said.

"Hospice Alliance has provided hospice care in Racine for over 30 years, and we look forward to 30 more!"

Stay connected! Like our Facebook Page!

Keep in touch! Subscribe to our new Hope Notes e-newsletter at www.hospicealliance.org