

Create an everlasting memory with an engraved brick dedicated to your loved one. Bricks are placed at the Hospice Alliance Memorial Brick Walk located on the beautiful grounds of Kemper Center near downtown Kenosha.

Available in two sizes, a 4”x 8” brick is a donation of \$150 and the 12” x 12” super brick, allowing more space for your message, is a donation of \$500 to Hospice Alliance Foundation.

For more information and to order your brick, please visit [www.hospicealliance.org](http://www.hospicealliance.org) or call 262.652.4400.



## Hospice Alliance Boosts Commitment to Veteran Care

At Hospice Alliance, we have been honoring our veterans since our very beginnings. Veterans who were in our care received special certificates and pins, along with red, white and blue quilts or afghans that were handmade by our talented volunteers. These commemorative pieces were delivered to the veteran and/or family members with heartfelt words of gratitude and thanks. The honoring presentation has always been both tremendously heartfelt and meaningful to the veteran and their loved ones.

In the past year, we parlayed a small internal program into the new national program known as “We Honor Veterans.” This national program, developed by National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs, focuses on respectful inquiry, compassionate listening and grateful acknowledgement.

As a partner in this program, Hospice Alliance can access tools and resources to serve our veteran patients and

educate our community to the highest level possible. With benchmarks in place to move organizations through the tiered program from “Recruit” to “Four



Hospice House patient Harry enjoys a sunny afternoon with friends, family and daughter Rachael visiting for his pinning ceremony.



Star,” Hospice Alliance quickly met the required criteria and we expect to earn our Fourth Star in September.

“I believe our staff has benefited greatly from the education provided though “We Honor Veterans.” While many on our care team had a basic understanding

Army Veteran, William, proudly displays his certificate and afghan received during his pinning ceremony.

## A Message from our Executive Director



Rita Hagen,  
Executive Director

Although Mother Nature has been taking her time, we can all smile that spring is (finally) upon us. Likewise, Hospice Alliance is extremely thrilled to be bringing more smiles into the everyday lives of patients and families.

I hope you can take a minute and enjoy reading about the “We Honor Veterans” program. The Chicago Cub’s Manager, Joe Maddon said, “Do simple better.” And here at Hospice Alliance, we’ve truly embraced that way of thinking.

Hospice Alliance has always provided our veterans with specialized care and recognition for their commitment to our country. It was simple, we just did what we do. With the new program in the fold, we are now caring for our veterans with laser-focus and top-of-mind commitment. Further, we are providing community education, ensuring veterans receive the understanding, dignity, respect and honor they genuinely deserve. We strive to elevate and enhance the process with every step that we take.

Your on-going support allows for programs like these to be developed and refined. Whether your donations are monetary, in-kind or a gift of your time; you are the reason our mission continues and allows many individuals facing end-of-life to be able to receive the compassionate care they and their families deserve.

I think, when it comes time to face end-of-life – either our own or that of someone we hold dear, we’ll reflect on those things that are simple - a walk through the neighborhood, a chat with a friend, a hug from a grandchild. Simple things to mindfully do, just a little bit better.

Gratefully,

Rita Hagen, RN, MSN  
Executive Director

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that there are differences in the mental and physical experiences of our veterans, this program has really allowed us to identify certain commonalities and care plan accordingly,” said Kelly Gronli, Director of Clinical Services.

In addition to staff and community education, the “We Honor Veterans” program has inspired the offering of public “Pinning Ceremonies.” These ceremonies include Veteran Volunteers who share a few words and pin our veteran patient as the camaraderie between veterans is palpable- especially at end-of- life. The event also includes patriotic songs, meaningful poems and sometimes a small reception for friends and family witnessing this special recognition.

“My dad was tough as nails and spent his life being a leader. As a Spec. 4 Engineer in the Vietnam War, he was a true patriot who died with that honor in his heart. He spent his last weeks surrounded by loved ones and the diligent care of staff, often enjoying the sunshine, fresh air and flowers. Hospice House held a wonderful commemorative ceremony in the garden when new and familiar faces gathered to thank him for his services one last time. He died with dignity, knowing his time here was truly appreciated by so many.” said Rachael Marenubium, Harry Bulport’s daughter.

In 2017, Hospice Alliance was honored to serve 144 veterans. That number will continue to increase as our Vietnam-era veterans are beginning to age and begin their journey at end-of-life.



WE HONOR VETERANS



Hospice Alliance is proud to be selected by Medicare to participate in a special palliative care program. As a part of the study, patients who meet specific criteria can receive the traditional support and benefits of hospice care while still receiving curative measures. If someone you know qualifies for hospice care but isn’t quite ready to forgo treatments for the life-limiting illness, call 262.652.4400. Choices Palliative Care might be a perfect fit!

Stay connected! Like our Facebook Page!



## Danka! Grazie! Merci! European Excursion Raises Funds for Patient Care!

The first Saturday of March, Rita Hagen welcomed upward of 175 guests to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside's Student Center for "An Evening of Wishes". The European Excursion theme was entertaining, luxurious and highly successful in raising funds for the Hospice Alliance mission.

The guests first stop on their Excursion was "Passport Photos" where Connie Wunder of Wunder Photography snapped photos of guests. They continued their travels bidding on silent auction items, testing their luck in the "Souvenir Raffle" and honing in on their putting skills in the "Rory McIlroy Open" – where they had the opportunity to win a foursome of golf at the Kenosha Country Club. Guests gathered stamps at each of their "stops," eventually showing their fully stamped passports at the "Concierge Raffle" where they could enter to win a LaMacchia Travel gift certificate.

"Each year, I am struck by how many auction items are donated and how beautifully everything is displayed. It's difficult to not bid on everything!" shared Barb Pillizzi.



The evening's honorees and special guests enjoyed an evening sharing memories and laughter.

At the commencement of the evening, the Hospice Alliance Founders were honored – Connie Ferwerda, Rev. Dudley Riggle and Joan Wilk, RN. After a few words of acknowledgement, Jamie Cairo, DNP shared a few heartfelt words about her family's experience with Hospice Alliance and her work in oncology.

Throughout the evening, live big band music from The Southport Sound filled the ballroom as

guests were served an elegant dinner and decadent desserts provided by The Addison of Pleasant Prairie.

By the end of the night, nearly \$55,000 was raised to provide compassionate end-of-life care for patients and their families.

"I am taken aback by the altruism and generosity of the individuals that make what we do at Hospice Alliance a possibility and a reality. Although this event is a fundraiser, it doubles as an opportunity to shed light and honor individuals that sincerely live out the true meaning of selflessness." Rita Hagen, Executive Director, Hospice Alliance.

The team from event sponsor and community partner, Good Value Pharmacy delight in their "stop" in Switzerland!



## Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

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## Save the Date!

Our 5th Annual An Evening of Wishes will be held Saturday, March 2, 2019. For more information about attending, sponsoring, donating or volunteering, call Megan Frazer, Marketing and Development Manager at 262.652.4400.



**June 27**

### **Service of Remembrance and Memorial Brick Dedication**

Kemper Center - 6501 3rd Ave., Kenosha  
Time: 5pm

**July 11**

### **Dining for Donations Ruffalo's Pizza 2**

Hospice Alliance receives 10% of all purchases between 11:00am and 10:00pm  
3931 45th Street, Kenosha

**October 18**

### **Dining for Donations Mason's Pub and Eatery**

Hospice Alliance receives 10% of all purchases from lunch through dinnertime  
7000 74th Street, Kenosha

**November 8**

### **6th Annual Ring and Remember**

Hospice Alliance  
10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd., Pleasant Prairie  
Time: 4pm or 6pm  
Please RSVP – 262.652.4400

**December Date TBD**

### **Shopping for Donations Jack Andrea**

Hospice Alliance receives a percentage of all purchases after 5pm  
2401 60th Street, Kenosha



10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd.  
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

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