

Hope NOTES..

Hospice Alliance™

Ask for us by name

The Lakefront, Tenuta's Deli and Hospice Alliance!

There are so many BEST things about Kenosha! Hospice Alliance is proud to be one of them - once again being selected Best of Kenosha! We are thrilled that the community is willing to share its time and votes to recognize our staff and volunteers for their commitment to quality, compassionate care! Missed the opportunity to vote? Register today for Hospice Alliance's e-newsletter at www.hospicealliance.org/info. We'll ensure you are notified at the next opportunity.



Small Joys Make a Difference

Often the simple things are what matter most when we're facing end of life. Seemingly small activities like watching a movie or television show from childhood, or enjoying a favorite meal or treat with a loved one, done with intention, can mean the world to a patient.

"We find that patients facing end-of-life aren't necessarily looking to have a "Make a Wish" experience, as we often think about it. Instead of a trip to Disney World or Hawaii, many of our patients just want to laugh with friends, reminisce with family, and simply experience the small joys of everyday life," said Jennifer Sytkowski, Bereavement Coordinator.

Julie LaBarge's mom, Charlene, was at Brookside Care Center when she was referred to Hospice Alliance. It was hard for Julie and Charlene to see each other



Charlene enjoys the simple "wish" fulfilled by her CNA - a McRib sandwich.



because of visitor restrictions due to Covid-19.

The Hospice Alliance Care Team including the Registered Nurse Case Manager, Social Worker, Chaplain and CNA called Julie frequently to share updates. Julie and the Care Team shared that Charlene wasn't a good eater, some of

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Charlene and daughter Julie, enjoy time together with safety at top of mind.

A Message from our Executive Director



Faithful Friend of Hospice Alliance,

It seems that life was much simpler 40 years ago. Kids played in the neighborhood and came in when the street lights came on, we ate homecooked meals with the family gathered around the table. I'm sure you reflect on those times like I do.

However, 40 years ago, folks facing end-of-life didn't necessarily find themselves in peace and comfort. They found themselves with limited choices, oftentimes facing their last days in the unfamiliar surroundings of a hospital room.

In September of 1981, a group of volunteers identified this shortcoming in end-of-life care and took it upon themselves to bring hospice care to our community. Long before Medicare reimbursements and Google Maps, Hospice Alliance team members were dispatched throughout Kenosha and Racine Counties to ensure that end-of-life was experienced at home, with wanted comforts and familiar faces.

We still hold the not-for-profit status from 1981, and still strive to enhance the experiences of last days. But we need your help. Medicare reimbursements don't cover all the expenses of providing quality, compassionate care. And they don't cover any of the life-enriching experiences such as Music Therapy and Aromatherapy.

Also going uncovered are: the uninsured, the under-insured, and the difference between what Hospice House patients are asked to pay and what the true cost of care is in our residential care facility.

But, thanks to the generosity of people like you, our patients experience simple joys of music and aromas and no patient is ever turned away. Your gifts are instrumental in creating the comforts, joys and peace for those facing end-of-life. Please return the enclosed envelope today to help us prepare for 40 more years.

Rita Hagen, MSN, RN
Executive Director

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the meals didn't suit her and she didn't feel up to eating.

One particular call included an interesting update. "Your mom was watching TV and told me, 'I saw the McDonald's McRib is back. I would really like one.' She was so excited that I brought her a McRib, that she wanted me to take a photo and send it to you!" Michelle, her CNA shared with Julie.

After finishing the entire McRib sandwich she said, "And I ate the whole thing!"

"Her CNA also brought her a soda and fries, but I think she just had a craving for a McRib. It's funny, because I don't remember those to ever be a favorite," Julie added.

“... our patients just want to laugh with friends, reminisce with family, and simply experience the small joys of everyday life.”

It's the little things, like fulfilling an advertising-triggered fast food request, that make days better for our patients as they face end-of-life. Whenever possible, Hospice Alliance Care Staff tries to make those things happen.

"These personal touches and acts of kindness are so important, especially during these Covid-19 times, when our staff is often the only personal contact our patients have," said Sytkowski. "They provide comfort to the patient and their families."



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Hospice Alliance & Hospice Alliance Foundation

www.hospicealliance.org

An Evening of Wishes 40th Anniversary Celebration

Hospice Alliance launched its 40th Anniversary Year hosting its 7th Annual An Evening of Wishes, Saturday, March 6th. As this last year has been one like no other, the gala-style event transformed into a safer-at-home virtual affair! However, the event still included opportunities to experience dinner, auction bidding and community through video testimonials and mission-supporting gifts.

“We are so honored that once again, our community demonstrated its commitment to end-of-life care. From sponsors to advertisers to businesses to volunteers and “attendees,” while the experience was quite different, the support we experienced was not,” shared Rita Hagen, Executive Director, Hospice Alliance.



Kristi Schaeffer-Kleutsch and daughter, Grace, await their carryout dinner pick up at Chef David's.

The online silent auction was open to all registrants starting the Monday prior, with rigorous bidding up until closing. The items offered were mindful of safety during the pandemic and the challenges that some businesses faced in the prior year.

Dinner was offered as a carry-out option from Chef David's. The menu featured

duet plate and vegetarian option and delectable Oreo Cheesecake Bars for dessert!

A video presentation featuring Hospice Alliance board members and patient family members debuted that evening. Filmed in the living room of the Hospice House, Sandy Riese, current President of the Operations Board of Directors touched on the history of Hospice Alliance and its importance to the community.

Long-time Board Member and Past President, Dick Regner, gave a recent personal account of Hospice Alliance's commitment to compassionate quality care, reiterating that not all hospice care providers offer an exceptional level of service.

Sharing a deeply personal story, Tara Panasewicz spoke of all four of her grandparents passing away in the Hospice House with dignity, comfort and peace. Those feelings extended to her family members as well.

“So many not-for-profits have struggled in the past year. It was wonderful to experience the joy and camaraderie of supporting an organization we are blessed to have in our community. Even though the group at our table was much smaller than the group that typically gathers in the ballroom at UW-Parkside, we still had a much-needed evening of family and generosity,” added Kristi Schaeffer-Kleutsch, event sponsor and committee member.

The event video can be viewed at hospicealliance.org.

Matt Martin, girlfriend, Kelly and daughter Gabby enjoy the virtual event as part of Piasecki Funeral Home's event sponsorship.



Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

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Order a Memorial Brick Today!

Memorial Bricks Still Available

Engraved memorial bricks create everlasting memories of your loved ones. Order yours and be part of our 2021 Service of Remembrance and Memorial Brick Dedication on Wednesday, June 23rd held at Kemper Center, the location of our Memorial Brick Walk.

“This is one of my favorite events,” shared Rita Hagen, Executive Director, Hospice Alliance. “We are making some adjustments so the entire event can occur outdoors and attendees are asked to wear masks. I’m happy we feel comfortable hosting it again.”

Due to production challenges, we cannot guarantee new brick orders to be placed in time for the 2021 event. Those who do not have a brick placed are welcome to join us in 2021 and 2022.

Anyone who has had a loved one pass in the care of Hospice Alliance is welcome to attend the short, but meaningful ceremony, followed by fellowship. If you would like more information about placing a brick order or attending the event, please call 262-652-4400 or simply RSVP or place your brick order at hospicealliance.org.



Due to production challenges bricks are not guaranteed to be placed in time for 2021’s Service. Those purchasing are welcome to join us in 2021 and 2022. Return form in the enclosed envelope with your check payable to Hospice Alliance Foundation or visit hospicealliance.org

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Regular brick: \$150.00 - Print up to 12 letters & spaces X 3 lines. **Large brick:** \$500 - 19 letters & spaces X 7 lines.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

Hospice Alliance Clinical Team Recognized!

Huge Hospice Alliance applause for our Clinical Team for winning the “Caring Together Team” award from the Alliance: Wisconsin Long-Term Care Workforce Alliance! The team was officially recognized at the Wisconsin Personal Services Association conference held virtually. The award included a cash award which was used to host a lunch for the whole staff! We think our Team is THE BEST and are so proud that others do, too!



Staying Connected Despite Covid-19

Many Hospice Alliance patients and their families have struggled through the rules and regulations set forth to stay safer during the battle against Covid-19. It was often hardest for those living in assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. Throughout the holiday season, Hospice Alliance CNAs worked closely with each patient residing in a care facility to stay connected with his or her family.

Hospice Alliance CNAs worked with each patient to send a Thanksgiving card with a personal note to a family member. Some enjoyed creating a good-old-fashioned hand-traced turkey and others simply dictated a note to include. Each was meaningful in its own way.

Additionally, each patient shared a special thumb-print gift with a family member. Often a family memento for a loved one passed, this year they served as presents from patients to loved ones.



Volunteer Manager, Beth Dillon, oversees the baking and packaging of our patient thumbprints.





Our 8th Annual An Evening of Wishes will be held Saturday, **March 5, 2022**. Details for a safe environment are still being determined. To be included in event communication, please call 262.652.4400.

Upcoming Events

Please check hospicealliance.org as all dates and times are subject to change due to COVID-19.

Service of Remembrance and Memorial Brick Dedication
June 23, 2021

Ring and Remember
November 11, 2021

Evening of Wishes
March 5, 2022

Carry Out for Contributions

Hospice Alliance Dining for Donations

Corner Bakery
June 17th

Ruffolo's Special Pizza II
July 21st

Cold Stone Creamery
August 19th

Noodles & Company
September 23

October – TBD

Do you own a restaurant and would like to host? Let us know!

Nothing Bundt Cakes
November 14th – 20th
Place orders all week!

Kendra Scott Shopping Event
December – Details to come!

Thank You For Your Support!



Hospice Alliance™
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Hospice Alliance

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