

Hospice Alliance™

Ask for us by name

Hope NOTES...

Hospice Alliance launched a new Community Outreach and Fundraising program “Dining for Donations.” Each month, we team up with an area restaurant to support dining at its location. In turn, a portion of each bill is donated back to Hospice Alliance.

Dining for Donations

Thursday, June 16
Jose’s Blue Sombrero
6430 Washington Avenue,
Mt. Pleasant, 11am – 10pm

Wednesday, July 20
Ruffalo’s Special Pizza 2
3931 45th Street
Kenosha, WI, 4pm - 10pm

Thursday, August 18
Mason’s Pub & Eatery
7000 74th Place, Kenosha

Thursday, September 15
Bull & Bear
4017 80th Street, Kenosha



For more details and updates on event times: www.hospicealliance.org

Like Us 

The Nose Knows

Complementary Therapies Bring Peace to Furry Family Members, too!

When Hospice Alliance’s Care Team met Roger and his wife of 37 years, Jane, for the first time, they also met their trusty Treeing Walker Coonhound/Golden Retriever mix, Hunter. Experiencing the devastation of Huntington’s disease, the family called on hospice care early in the illness and Hospice Alliance went into action “adding life to days.”

Upon meeting Roger and Jane, his Care Team Case Manager Sarah Breiwick, RN, learned of their love of music and how it had such an impact in their relationship.

“We started by sending lyrics that we wrote daily while he (Roger) was in law school,” Jane recalls. Music has been especially beneficial since Roger got sick. It has a “very soothing and calming effect on him,” Jane said.

Sarah, along with Social Worker Connie Dues, MSW, suggested Dance/Movement Therapy would benefit Roger, and it was added to his Care Plan. While Dance/Movement Therapy focuses on the body, sessions often include listening to music and creating connections on a body-level beyond traditional dance through mirroring, touch and deep breathing.

Complementary Therapies such as Dance/Movement Therapy, as well as Aromatherapy, Art Therapy, Benevolent Touch and Pet Therapy are part of the collection of treatments

that patients with Hospice Alliance can receive as a supplement, if not replacement for, pharmacological treatments. Aiding in symptom management and emotional and spiritual



Hunter, a steadfast companion, keeps a watchful eye over his master, Roger, during their afternoon rest.

well-being, these therapies are an extension of healthcare that treat the whole person, not just the symptom of the disease.

Kamahria Hopkins, MA, Registered-Dance/Movement Therapist and Certified Aromatherapist, began visiting Roger. The visits included listening to Roger’s favorite tunes (often those by James Taylor and Harry Chapin).

“The Care Team found that Roger was most engaged during dance therapy sessions where he had

Something to Celebrate



Rita Hagen,
Executive Director

I am excited to announce to all of you that Hospice Alliance is celebrating 35 years of caring. I often think about what it was like at Hospice Alliance 35 years ago, when a small group of community members and a novel philosophy of care on the cutting edge in our country, was born.

Fast-forward 35 years. Our nonprofit - still influenced by many valuable volunteers- continues to educate and innovate. We teach patients, their families, healthcare professionals and the community at large about the benefits of hospice care.

While the concept of hospice care is no longer considered progressive, Hospice Alliance has continued to pioneer. For example, we've recently incorporated a number of Complementary Therapies into our scope of care. These treatments, including Aromatherapy, Dance/Movement, Art, Benevolent Touch and Pet Therapies, are congruent with our mission of "adding life to days."

Supporters, such as you, have also played a consistent role in the last 35 years. From the early days as a grassroots organization, the building of our Hospice House in Pleasant Prairie and the un-reimbursed services, such as Complementary Therapies, community education and bereavement, you have sustained Hospice Alliance.

Your continued commitment fosters award-winning quality care and growth in the many years to come!

And for that, we are grateful.

Warmly,

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A Roaring 20's Event

The first Saturday in March, Rita Hagen welcomed nearly 150 guests to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside's Student Center for "An Evening of Celebration" – this year commemorating Hospice Alliance's 35-years of caring in our community.

The 1920s themed evening featured live music and interactive entertainment, along with a vast display of silent and live auction items, creating an experience that was "the cat's meow."



With a spacious new venue for the event, guests spent the evening bidding on silent and live auction items, testing their luck in dice games, cork pulls and the ever-popular Razzle Dazzle raffle - with a beautiful pendant for the taking. Additionally, Big Band music and a fabulous dinner brought friends together, new and old.

A first time attendee, Barb Pillizzi noted, "The feeling of love and concern for families who need Hospice Alliance's care was prevalent throughout the evening. We had a wonderful time, but knew we were there in support for those facing end-of-life." All told, nearly \$50,000 was raised for Hospice Alliance at "An Evening of Celebration."

"The lively tunes of the show-stopping 11-piece big band Southport Sound encouraged guests to dance the night away. The silent and live auctions offered something for everyone - including a day at the golf course and a stay at a tropical paradise home in Mexico, in addition to many local restaurant and event certificates," noted Michelle Gullett.

Committee members, Hospice Alliance staff and board members, as well as community members and businesses near and far contributed to the eight live auction items, in addition to the 96 silent auction packages.





“Each and every year, I am taken aback by the generosity of the individuals that make this event a reality. We are truly blessed by kindness, and, while this event is a fundraiser, it’s also an opportunity for us to thank attendees for their compassionate support and share the stories of the people whose lives they are impacting,” added Rita Hagen, Executive Director, Hospice Alliance.



Save the Date!

“An Evening of Wishes” is scheduled for Saturday, March 4th, 2017. For more info, call Megan Frazer, Marketing and Development Manager at 262-652-4400 to learn how you can take part.



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the Nose Knows... continued from page 1

the opportunity to connect to the music that had helped create so many meaningful memories for him and his wife over the years,” Kamahria said.

During one of Sarah’s visits, she and Jane chatted about Hunter, Roger’s constant companion. He just wasn’t his typical self – pulling on his tail and experiencing a frequently upset stomach. It seems that as Roger’s disease progressed, Hunter also began experiencing health issues.

Sarah - with a English Mastiff, Mocha, of her own - suggested to Jane that anxiety could be the culprit. And they discussed a local veterinarian who recently offered aromatherapy for pets.

“It has calmed all of us,” said Jane. “Something as simple as aromatherapy coming in and calming down (Hunter) was a godsend.”

Sarah brought her observations and conversations back to the Care Team. Kam did some research, and upon her next visit for Dance/Movement Therapy, decided to implement Aromatherapy for Hunter. A mix of lavender and ginger essential oils was diffused through the living room where Roger’s favorite playmate spends most of his time.

As expected, Hunter’s symptoms dwindled and Roger and Jane were relieved, as their Hunter was back to his spunky self - serving as the resident “pet therapist,” as he has for so many years.

“It has calmed all of us,” said Jane. “Something as simple as aromatherapy coming in and calming down (Hunter) was a godsend.”

The combination of music during Dance/Movement Therapy sessions and Aromatherapy has created increased quality of life for Roger.

“That was the best he looked from the onset of the disease,” Jane said. “The most relaxed. The most at peace. When I think of Rog and how this illness has transpired, if we didn’t have music I don’t know what we would do.”

At Hospice Alliance our Care Teams treat family members (even the four legged ones) with the same compassion and respect we do our patients and are proud to be part of their lives.



During a session of Dance/Movement Therapy, Roger takes a moment to share his engaging smile.



Complementary therapies

are “uncompensated care,” meaning there are no reimbursements from private insurances, Medicare or Medicaid for these impactful treatments. Hospice Alliance uses donations from supporters like you to provide these services adding “more life to days.”

Help us continue to grow important programs such as these by mailing a donation in the enclosed envelope or visiting www.hospicealliance.org/donate. Our patients (and their faithful companions) appreciate your generosity.

A Dandy Employee

Hospice Alliance was honored to have “one of its own” – Sally Willingham, CNPNA - receive the first-ever Caregiver of Month award from the Kenosha County Longterm Care Workforce Alliance. The recognition is given to an exceptional caregiver in order to recognize the importance and value of direct care workers.



Executive Director, Rita Hagen congratulates Sally Willingham, who is also celebrating 30 years at Hospice Alliance, on her Caregiver of the Month award.

A portion of Sally’s nomination, submitted by Lynda Becker, Hospice Alliance CNA Supervisor, read:

“Sally is a CHPNA, a CNA certified in palliative and hospice care. Caring for our patients for 30+ years, she is kind, caring, dedicated and compassionate. Her sense of humor can transport our patients and families to better places during her visits.

We’ve had numerous patients request Hospice Alliance for end-of-life care at the suggestion of families who have had Sally care for their loved ones. That is truly a testament to how wonderful Sally is.”

Rita Hagen, Hospice Alliance Executive Director stated, “In addition to her compassion and ability to put patients and families at ease, Sally is a true leader in our organization. Her professionalism and work-ethic are evident. A team player by nature, she consistently guides and teaches her colleagues, especially new CNAs, showing them the “Hospice Alliance Way.” We are thrilled to have Sally recognized throughout our community.”

Drumroll Please...

We are thrilled to share with you (and the rest of the World Wide Web surfers) our new website! The next time you log on, visit us at www.hospicealliance.org. The robust site, designed locally by Dooley and Associates, serves as a resource for those seeking basic information about the hospice philosophy of care in addition to patients and their families as well as healthcare professionals and volunteers.

With frequent updates, www.hospicealliance.org is the go-to place for Hospice Alliance special event information - such as the annual Remembrance Service and Memorial Brick Dedication and Ring and Remember. Visitors will also learn more about support opportunities from the “An Evening of Wishes” annual fundraiser to our new monthly “Dining for Donations” occasions.

If you are looking for grief support opportunities, the website is a great place to start. Keep in mind that our bereavement services are available to anyone in our community, not only family members who’ve had a loved one in our care.

Are you a volunteer? The new site allows you to

log in to view upcoming volunteer opportunities and document your volunteer time with a simple-to-complete form!

We look forward to your website visit and welcome you to “like” our Facebook page as well. You can find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/hospicealliance.



Save the Dates!

Join us at our Upcoming Events

June 22

Service of Remembrance and Memorial Brick Dedication

Kemper Center

6501 3rd Ave., Kenosha

Time: 5:00pm,

Please RSVP – 262.652.4482 ext. 1211

October 11

Screening of: *Consider the Conversation 2: Stories about Cure, Relief and Comfort*

Kenosha Public Museum

5500 1st Ave., Kenosha

Time: 6pm,

Please RSVP – 262.652.4482 ext. 1452

November 4

4th Annual Ring and Remember

Hospice Alliance

10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd., Pleasant Prairie

Time: 4pm or 6pm

Please RSVP – 262.652.4482 ext. 1452

Summer Art Therapy Series

A new series focusing on healing through artistic expression

Each month participants will create an art project addressing a different aspect of the grieving process.

Thursday, July 14th and 21st: Memory Box

Thursday, August 11 and 18th: Pillow

Thursday, September 8 and 15th: Wrap Doll

No art experience necessary! Space is limited. For more info or to reserve your place, call Rebecca at 262-652-1302.



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Volunteer Scoop! featuring Ann Owen

If you've noticed "a little something different" about the Hospice House in the past few months, you were right-on! Longtime volunteer and dedicated house decorating extraordinaire, Ann Owen, has retired.

Ann began her volunteer path with Hospice Alliance when the office was in Downtown Kenosha and the Hospice House in Pleasant Prairie was still a plan in the making. She began working with patients making in-home visits. Then, as Hospice Alliance built the Hospice House, and then expanded it, Ann took on an extra special role, combining her compassion and empathy for our patients with her inherent design talents.

It started by simply adding some garland and twinkle lights to the fireplace mantel of the newly built Hospice House and developed into seasonal decorating, as well as assisting with furnishings and reupholstering. In fact, Ann's touches can be seen the moment you walk in the door as she directed the design and painting of the foyer – featuring our signature dandelion with a prairie style.

Ann found herself enjoying her time visiting with patients and their families who were admiring the rooms she was decorating. Oftentimes, as she decorated for a holiday, a guest would chat about a specific family tradition or memory. She would often stop her work to sit and chat over coffee and cookies.

While we will miss Ann's loveliness and graciousness filling our House, we are forever grateful for her time and talent. We wish her the best as she plans to spend more time in warmer weather!

Thank You Ann!



Ann Owen enjoys a moment in the living room of the Hospice House.