

November 2017

Dear Friend of Hospice Alliance,

I am writing to you this holiday season to thank you for your past support of Hospice Alliance. Whether the gift was of your time, your talents or your treasure, I am blessed daily to witness the impact your commitment has on families, friends and neighbors in our community. I thought I'd take this opportunity to share a story with you...

Craig came to us at the beginning of the summer with incurable stomach cancer and a commitment to fill his remaining days with love and laughter.

A Kenosha kid with a passion for dirt bikes, Craig saved up and bought his first Harley – a Heritage Soft Tail, to be exact – before his 21st birthday. During some quiet time with his Hospice Alliance social worker Jo Ann, Craig dreamed of “taking one last ride.” Knowing his body no longer had the strength to manage his beloved hog, it was as if he were dreaming an impossible dream.

With time of the essence, Jo Ann devised a plan with Craig's wife and committed caregiver, Christina.

On a bright sunny day in July, Christina shared the news, “Daddy Doo (his nickname for longer than anyone can remember), I've got a surprise for you! We're going to do it. We're going for a ride.”

He apologized sadly that he just couldn't do it. He was too weak, too sick to ride his bike. And he certainly couldn't safely have her as his passenger. But, she explained, “You don't understand. We ARE going for a ride. It's going to happen.”

The very next morning, whether it was sheer willpower, divine intervention or simply luck, the awful symptoms cleared enough for Craig to take the quick car ride to Uke's Harley-Davidson. Friends, family and a host of generous riders - many he'd never met - waited to join Daddy Doo for his last ride.

With a smile wider than the sidecar in which he rode and a driver just as passionate about living each day to the fullest, together they made their loop through Wisconsin farmland, fulfilling Craig's impossible dream.

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You too may have a personal story attesting to the physical, emotional and spiritual care of Hospice Alliance that allowed your family or friends to make memories during a loved one's precious final days.

Your donation to Hospice Alliance makes it all possible. Here are a few of the accomplishments we've achieved in 2017, thanks to supporters like you:

- Implemented our “Music of the Soul” program - providing personalized “playlists” to help our patients and families reconnect with special memories, provide a chance for self-expression and an opportunity for socialization and life enrichment.
- Introduced the “We Honor Veterans” initiative in conjunction with the VA and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization to enhance the care of our treasured Veteran patients while honoring their service.
- Purchased Macy Catheters – a new technology for medicine delivery to help manage symptoms for patients having difficulties.

However, Hospice Alliance needs your support once again to continue our mission in 2018 with projects including:

- Implementing the *Choices Palliative Care* program which we were selected to pilot in our community by Medicare.
- Advancing our Electronic Medical Records system to enhance management of patient care and communication.
- Covering Hospice House room and board, which can be a saving grace for patients and families during life's most challenging time.

Your gift makes a difference to the people in our community facing end of life. It is truly a gift of compassion. I ask that you please remember Hospice Alliance during this season of giving.

Warm regards,



Rita Hagen, RN, MSN
Executive Director

P.S. Your tax-deductible gift in any amount is a big help. Hospice Alliance will never turn away a patient based on ability to pay, so your financial support is critical. Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope today.

