

## COMING EVENTS

Go to our website calendar for details and updates:  
[www.hospicealliance.org](http://www.hospicealliance.org)

**November 12 and 14**  
**Educational Teleconference**  
Improving Care for Veterans Facing Illness and Death

**November 21**  
**NEW! Ring & Remember**  
Don't miss this new Hospice Alliance tradition! See inside.

**March 18**  
**Volunteer Training Begins**

**April (date to be announced)**  
**Educational Teleconference**  
Living with Grief: Adolescents and Children

**March 8-9**  
**Kenosha Expo - Health and Home Fair**

**June 25**  
**NEW! Kemper Center Remembrance Event & Brick Dedication**

**July 27**  
**8th Annual Car Show and Craft Fair**

Follow us on  Facebook  
 LinkedIn

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

## “Evening of Wishes” Gala Attracts New Supporters

Executive Director Rita Hagen welcomed nearly 130 guests to the Hospice Alliance “Evening of Wishes” gala held at the Kenosha Country Club on October 5th.

A new, beautiful venue and a new program featuring musical entertainment and heartfelt personal stories made for an elegant and enjoyable evening for all who attended. All told, \$29,000 was raised for Hospice Alliance at the gala.

“It was a wonderful event,” Hospice Alliance Foundation Board Member Mary Karnes said. “I was delighted to see so many new faces as well as old friends. The menu created and prepared by the Kenosha Country Club was outstanding.”

“I loved the notes attached to the golden balloons around the auction tables,” Volunteer Coordinator Helen Plous said. “When I began reading

*continued on page 2*



New committee member Trish Koepfel created centerpieces featuring pictorial shadowboxes of international sites. She also brought along a table of friends. From left, Pat and Shari Curran, Mary and Mike Koepfel, Jason and Trish Koepfel, Adam and Jean Kimpler.

## Share Your Story with Us on Facebook!

Hospice Alliance now has its own Facebook page. Here you will find our latest updates on events and volunteering, inspiring patient stories, plus resources and tips for caregivers.

We hope you will share your comments about Hospice Alliance. Plus we'd love to share appropriate stories about hospice care on our page for others to read and enjoy.

Simply open your own Facebook page and search for Hospice Alliance & Hospice Alliance Foundation. Click on the “Like” button and you will automatically be able to see our updates on your own page. It's simple and free!

Several organizations that offer grants are holding Facebook “Like” contests, so by “Liking” the Hospice Alliance page, you will help us qualify for more grant opportunities. **Why wait? “Like” us on Facebook today!**



Rita Hagen, Executive Director

## November Is Hospice Awareness Month!

As a friend of Hospice Alliance, your support of National Palliative Care and Hospice Awareness is important to us.

An important part of our mission is “empowering patients and their loved ones.” You can’t be empowered to make good decisions about healthcare choices without accurate information.

Too often we hear patients and families say “it’s not time for hospice yet, I’m not ready to die.” But as you know, hospice isn’t about dying, it’s about living!

Studies show that people with a terminal illness live an average of 29 days longer with hospice care. Additionally, their quality of life is greatly improved.

**Help us share the truth about hospice care.** Invite us to speak at your church or social group! Call 262-652-4400 or email our community outreach team at [MFrazer@hospicealliance.net](mailto:MFrazer@hospicealliance.net).



them, I immediately realized these were the real wishes of our patients. It was a heartwarming touch.”

In fact, the name of the new annual event was inspired by the goal of Hospice Alliance to add more life to each day by honoring the wishes of patients and families. (See “Small Wish Makes a Big Difference” at right.)

“A Taste of the World,” the theme for this year’s event, featured music and gourmet foods from around the world. The evening started with Italy: Land of Opera & Song, with singers from Carthage College and appetizers from Morocco, Spain and Costa Rica.

Dinner starred Kobe Beef Tenderloin served on a bed of Papas al Ajillo (spicy mashed potatoes) from Argentina, and was accompanied by world music from the Racine Symphony Orchestra Quartet.

Many in the audience were moved to tears by the true stories of



Operations Board President Mike Langendorf entertained the audience with warm humor and lively auctioneering.

The Trinity Irish Dancers had Gala guests on their feet and clapping their hands with their high-stepping performance.

people cared for by Hospice Alliance shared by Rita Hagen, Tara Panasewicz (Committee Member) and Sue Barta (Committee Member and Hospice Alliance RN). Throughout the evening, Operations Board President Mike Langendorf kept the audience entertained with his warm humor and lively auctioneering skills. The Trinity Irish Dancers concluded the evening on an upbeat note.

The audience participated in robust bidding on nearly 70 Live and Silent Auction Items, including week-long vacations at a resort home on Eagle River and another in Baha Sur, Mexico, 2014 Brewer’s Tickets (with seats behind the visitors dugout), and a Home Martini Party for 20, including a professional bartender.

Look for news about the next “Evening of Wishes” Gala in early 2014! Contact Megan Frazer ([MFrazer@hospicealliance.net](mailto:MFrazer@hospicealliance.net)) to support the event.



Golden balloons featuring the “wishes” of Hospice Alliance patients added a heart-warming touch to the auction tables.







## Small Wish Makes a Big Difference

### A Patient's Story

Sophie, at age 35, was the oldest daughter in her family, and had a lot on her plate, including two small children ages 5 and 7. But when her mom, at age 59, was diagnosed with a terminal illness, Sophie wanted and needed to be there for her.

Sophie's siblings were away at college and came home when possible, but Sophie and her husband, Gary, became her mom's sole caregivers.

One afternoon, the Hospice Alliance social worker found Sophie in tears. Her children had wanted to play outside, but her mom was having a rough day.

Sophie was not comfortable leaving her alone to spend time with the kids outside. Like so many caregivers, she was torn between the needs of her mother and her children.

The social worker made a call, and told Sophie that a volunteer would drop off a baby monitor and that Sophie needed to use it—so she could go outside with her kids and still be available for her mom!

Sophie cried again, but this time with relief. A few days later Sophie shared with us that she was able to get much-needed fresh air, and she was also sleeping better, all thanks to our gift of a baby monitor.

Hospice Alliance strives to fulfill these small yet important wishes of patients and families whenever possible.

Please read the "Wish List" in this newsletter and help us make more wishes come true for patients and families.

Donate a "Wish List" item today!

*“It was comforting to know that a caring Hospice Alliance staff member was there 24/7 when we needed them.”*

## Welcome New Hospice Alliance Employees

Please give a warm welcome to new Hospice Alliance employees hired since our last newsletter. To help you get to know our staff better, we will feature employee profiles in this newsletter, as space allows.

Dawn Beth, CNA

Mary Haley, CNA

Jill Hickson, Administrative Assistant

Mark Jambrek, Facilities Specialist

Carolyn Lewis, CNA

Aleksandra Milojevic, RN

Cristina Putra, Administrative Assistant

Michael Santiago, CNA

Connie Yonash, CNA

Joannie Williams, RN

Katherine Zukowski, Occupational Therapist

### FOCUS ON CHAPLAIN TERRY

Chaplain Terry Petersen has been providing spiritual support for hospice patients and families for five years. But he started his career as a “tool and die” man. Originally from Racine, Chaplain Terry, wife Heide and “Grady” their pet parrot have made their home in Kenosha for over 20 years now.

In addition to teaching “Grady” to talk (he has a vocabulary of over 200 words!), Chaplain Terry likes salmon fishing,

woodcock hunting and walking in the woods enjoying our beautiful Wisconsin fall colors.



### Board of Directors

Michael Langendorf, President  
Daniel Heyden, Sec./Treas.  
Esther Letven, Past President  
Rita Hagen, RN, Executive Director  
Joshua Bloom, MD, Medical Director  
Mary Ann Cardinali, MSN, NEA-BC  
Jerry Bain  
Robert Bichler  
Chuck Duford  
Michael Haubrich, CFP  
David Knight, MD  
Scott McArthey  
Kathleen Nuzzo  
Gene Olson  
Nancy Piasecki  
Richard Regner  
Pamela Thomey

### Foundation Board

Thomas Tenuta, President  
Mary Karnes, Vice Pres.  
Dennis Mattioli, Sec./Treas  
Daniel Heyden, Asst. Sec./Treas.  
David Berman  
Len Iaquinta  
Michael Mullane, MD  
Gene Olson  
Sandra Riese, RN  
Robert Schneider



# Bushels of Thanks to Our Friends and Supporters...

## 7th Annual Car Show & Craft Fair



We so appreciate the Pohfahl family for once again hosting the Annual Car Show and Craft Fair benefiting Hospice Alliance. The event was spearheaded by Phil "Firesuit" Pohfahl in 2008 after several members of the family were in our care.

Thanks to wife Barb and daughter Linda Holly the tradition continues. Dozens of volunteers, including Judy Glover (Craft Fair), Denise Maki (Bake Sale) and Eve Meier (Food Concessions) contributed their talents to make the show successful.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



ABILITY AUTO GLASS, INC.



Funeral Homes & Crematory



Pleasant Prairie Firemen stopped by to chat with young visitors.



The raffle sold out in no time thanks to beautiful themed baskets donated by Hospice Alliance staff, a bright blue, four-drawer tool chest donated by Snap-On and a 50"-screen TV from Draeger-Langendorf Funeral Services and Piasecki-Althaus Funeral Home.



Barb Pofahl presented Frank Kavel with the 2013 Car Show Winner trophy for his pristine 1940 Chevy.







Rita Hagen accepts a check for \$3,000 from Past President of Rotary Club of Kenosha Ed Doody. The grant was used to replace three worn out lift chairs (needed to assist patients who have back or muscle pain in sitting and standing). The Rotary Club of Kenosha donated \$25,500 to eight organizations this year.



The Anita La Macchia "For the Love of Golf" Memorial Outing scored not one, but two perfect rounds for non-profits serving area residents. Thanks to organizers Julie, Joe and Teresa La Macchia, board member Mary Karnes and Bob Karnes, a \$30,000 benefit "pot" was split between Hospice Alliance and Alzheimer's research.

Thank you for holding this benefit on our behalf!



A truck load of thanks to "Two Men and a Truck, Movers Who Care" for helping us transport lift chairs, ramps and other large equipment to patient homes. Pictured here are drivers Connor Draves and Zakk Salerno.

Hospice Alliance was the recipient of a \$1,200 donation thanks to the Annual Siscofest Motorcycle Poker Run. We appreciate that Mark Sisco (on Rita's right) has been holding this benefit since 2007. Thanks, too, to event helpers: Dawn Schoen, Ken Schoen and Tanya Harper.



Volunteers from SC Johnson used their cleaning products to add fresh shine to our Kenosha Hospice House. Thanks so much for devoting your Friday to us! Pictured left to right: Eleonora Paz, Michelle Goetsch, Erik Dier, Nicole Bosco, Jamie Hannam, Laura Chiche, Claire Allen, Hailey Kohut, Melissa Leeder, Cheryl Truesdale, Leanne Shideler, Nicole Schubilske, Kara Metzger.





# Save the Date! June 25, 2014

## Kemper Center Remembrance Event & Brick Dedication

Last summer's Remembrance Event & Brick Dedication at Kemper Center was so well-attended and received, that we will combine our spring, fall and June events all into one at this venue for 2014.

No one is sure when the tradition started, but within the 17-acre Kemper Center campus is a brick walkway encircling a fountain at Founder's Hall and leading to the 18th-century chapel, featuring bricks engraved with the names of loved ones cared for by Hospice Alliance.

In June the gardens are lush and beautiful, and the breezes off Lake Michigan exhilarating...it's the perfect setting for your entire family to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one.

## Remember Your Loved Ones This Season...

Engraved memorial bricks create everlasting memories of your loved ones. Order yours now and be a part of the new 2014 Remembrance and Brick Dedication.

Each engraved brick will be specially placed in the Hospice Alliance Walkway at the entrance of the Kemper Center. For \$150, you may purchase a



photo courtesy of kenosha.org

This year's program will include a guest speaker, musical entertainment and refreshments. Additionally, we will honor veterans who have passed with a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.

You won't want to miss this event. Mark June 25th on your calendar!



4" x 8" brick, or for \$500, buy a 12 x 12 "super" brick (with enough space for a quote or verse).

To order, fill out the form below and mail to Anita Alfaro, Hospice Alliance, 10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd., Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158 or order online, [www.hospicealliance.org](http://www.hospicealliance.org).

TO ORDER A BRICK IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONE, PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW.  
ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO HOSPICE ALLIANCE FOUNDATION.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Regular brick: Print up to 12 characters X 3 lines. Super brick: 19 characters X 7 lines

# Join Us for A New Hospice Alliance Tradition!

## Ring & Remember

Nov 21, 2013: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

You are invited to join us for a new type of celebration! Our Ring & Remember event is being created to remember and celebrate loved ones who have touched our lives and hearts. As such, special "Ring & Remember" bells are available for purchase at only \$5 now and at the event.

The special program will include:

- Music by a Bell Choir
- Sharing Memories by Presenters (guests will also be invited to share a memory)
- Refreshments
- Reconnection with Hospice Alliance staff

This event is being held November 21, in recognition of National Palliative & Hospice Care Awareness Month. Please purchase a bell for each of the loved ones you would like remembered at the event. Use the form below or email: Anita Alfaro (AAlfaro@hospicealliance.net).



### Ring & Remember Certificate

This certificate in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5 per bell)

is given to honor/remember:

\_\_\_\_\_ *please print*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

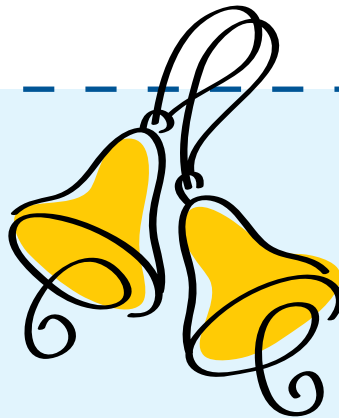
Email \_\_\_\_\_

So we can confirm correct spelling for our program.

Would you like your loved one's name mentioned at the event?     Yes     No

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return this certificate with your check to Hospice Alliance Foundation, 10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158.**



## The Unexpected Wedding Guest

By Louise Bucko,  
Hospice Alliance Volunteer

When I accepted the volunteer assignment to accompany Marge to her youngest son's wedding, I had no idea it would turn into a happy reunion for me.

I arrived at the designated time, the Med-Ex van arrived, loaded the long, recliner-type wheelchair with Marge seated comfortably, and off we went.

Imagine my surprise when, upon our arrival, each member of the large family welcomed both of us with great joy. You see, I had accompanied Marge to her older son's wedding the previous year...but I never guessed the family would remember me.

Even the bride from the previous wedding stopped over to say it was nice to see me again, and how nice I looked...Wow!

When I tried to push the large, heavy wheelchair so Marge could get a good view of the ceremony, four nephews popped out of nowhere to say "hello" and assist me.

We also attended the outdoor reception and by then, Marge was starved. Even though the caterer was just setting up, I knew I had to find something for her to eat.

Fortunately, I overheard one of the caterers say that the roaster on the back table was full of stuffed green peppers. Marge's daughter went to get the stuffed pepper, as I quenched her thirst with sips of ice tea. Marge ended up eating two stuffed peppers, a plate of fruit and a large serving of cheesy potatoes.

I settled Marge back at home full, tired and content. It was a fun day for her and me, the unexpected wedding guest!





10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd.  
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Racine, WI  
Permit #1261

Like us on Facebook



## Hospice Alliance™ ...wish list

- Video Infant Monitors with Wireless Camera
- Wheeled Serving Cart (Racine House)
- Bed Pillows, Bed Wedges, Body Pillows
- Amplifiers and Microphones (Radio Shack)
- AMD Communication Boards (Radio Shack)
- Small (handheld) Eraser Boards
- 10 Pink Soaker/Chux Pads (cloth) (Racine House)
- Gift Cards (Pick 'n' Save and Target)

**Please drop off items in Pleasant Prairie, unless Racine House specified above. Thanks!**

*“ We very much appreciated that my sister was able to have peace and caring people nearby in her final days. Your house also gave us peace and a place to be with her. God Bless! ”*