I close my eyes at night, Wondering where would the without you in my life





November 2018

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

Jane wrote letters daily, addressed to Ada, Ohio, where Roger was attending Law School some five hours away. And "Rog" as she affectionately called him, also posted daily to his love still at home. Each handwritten note featured a line from a James Taylor song penned at the top.

As young loves with a charming family in their future, they sped the backroads of western Wisconsin in their MGB roadster painted British Racing Green – blasting "Steamroller," Rog's forever favorite.

Life cruised along with a soundtrack of "You've Got a Friend," "Something in the Way She Moves," "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)" and other now-classics humming in the background. When Roger faced the unwinnable battle with Huntington Disease – which robs a person of physical and mental abilities during the prime of life – James Taylor crooned on; a sanctuary of joyous memories when the horrific disease physically stole Roger's smile, but never his grace or dignity!

Whenever Roger encountered discomfort or anxiety, the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Famer's music helped carry him through. After noting the power of James Taylor's songs, Sarah, Roger's RN Case Manager, had an idea. A pipe dream, really. She googled the singer and as if the universe's "Smiling Face" was beaming down, he was scheduled to perform at Ravinia. She crafted an email, noting her patient didn't have much time. Would he be available to meet a sick man whose life he'd been intimately part of, without even knowing?

The response was YES!

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On a chilly summer afternoon, Roger sped down the highway one last time. This time in an ambulance, tucked into a hospital bed. As always, his sweetheart sat beside him. The couple arrived for sound check – a perfect-length private concert featuring the classics "Fire and Rain," "County Road" and the most fitting, "Secret O' Life." Jane squeezed Rog's hand as she sang along, with tears in her eyes and undoubtedly a broad smile on Roger's heart.

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 donations to Hospice Alliance make it all possible. Here are a few of our 2018 accomplishments thanks to supporters like you:



- Introducing Video Encounters, allowing patients and caregivers face-to-face contact nearly instantaneously.
- Implementing our 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.

However, Hospice Alliance needs your support once again to continue our mission in 2019 with projects including:

- Covering Hospice House room and board, which can be a saving grace for patients and families during life's most challenging time.
- Website enhancements, including an educational portal for patients and caregivers featuring videos and guides.
- Enhancement of electronic communication capabilities allowing our Care Team to update designated family members and loved ones via emails and text.

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 holiday season.

Warm Regards,

Rita Hagen, MSN, RN **Executive Director**

Keta M Hagen

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

there's you and there ain't nobody else, I wanna stop and thank you baby