



Hospice Alliance™
Ask for us by name



November 2019

I am writing during this season of giving to thank you for your past support of Hospice Alliance. Whether your gift was of your time, talent or financial, I am blessed to witness the impact your commitment has had on families, friends and neighbors in our community. I wanted to take a moment to share this story about one of our recent patients...

Chuck Thorne first saw the article in the Kenosha News: Tall Ships Coming to Kenosha Harbor. Needless to say, if there was one thing his stroke-battered mind and body needed to witness, it was these boats.

He grew up on sailboats, spending much of his younger years skippering along the beautiful California coast. As time passed, Chuck could be found teaching his seven daughters when to tack and when to jibe on our local inland lakes. While his life had seen its share of rough seas, his love for the water and sails was a constant.

Despite how desperately she and her sisters wanted to take their dad to see the Tall Ships, Patti, who lives nearby and is a doer by nature, just couldn't wrap her head around how she could make it work. It's not like she could tuck him into a seat of the car. Despite his will, his limbs would not support the maneuver. And she was sure his big wheelchair wouldn't fit into a van. If she did manage to drive him to the harbor, what about any unforeseen medical issues?

With the gumption of her father in her blood and the Hospice Alliance care team standing ready, Chuck's dream came true.

Hospice Alliance stepped in to handle the scary logistics. That picture-perfect Friday, Sarah, his RN Case Manager, had him ready for an adventure – outfitted in a spiffy sailboat shirt. Beloved Certified Nursing Assistant, Carol, tagged along to handle any medical challenges.

Patti and her Dad were on their way to the impossible – with a simple plan to see the Tall Ships up close. Expectations were set. His wieldy wheelchair couldn't navigate the gang planks, so they wouldn't be

— over

boarding a ship. But that was okay. He'd learned over the years that the small joys could be just as fulfilling as the big ones.

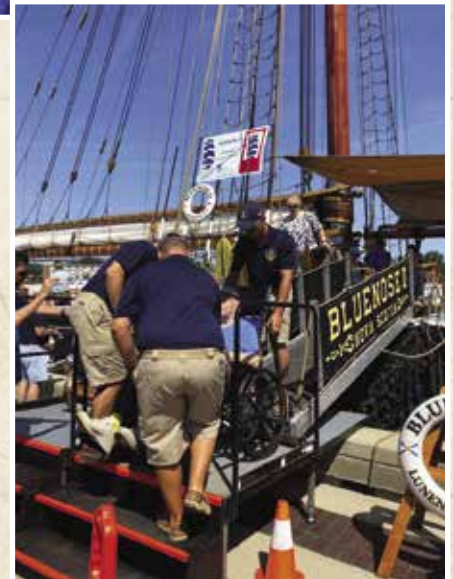
As he sat in the shadow of masts and sails, he still wished aloud, "I want to go aboard."

And once again, Patti mopped up tears and was forced to explain what her Dad already knew, "Impossible."

But one thing Chuck understood from his days on the water was sometimes you can sail faster than the wind.

Suddenly, a lady shouted over the side of the Blue Nose II, "Stay right there!" And the crew, dressed in khaki shorts and neatly tucked in navy collared shirts came bounding down the plank. With might and muscle they horsed him up the plank and onto the shiny teak deck. The touring crowds milling about parted with respect as he made his way astern.

As Chuck basked under her massive sails, topped by an azure sky and a gentle breeze, the old sailor smiled wider than the ocean...



You or someone close to you probably has a personal story attesting to the physical, emotional and spiritual care Hospice Alliance provided for a family member or friend during a loved one's final days. Returning the enclosed envelope with a donation will continue to make it possible for others. Here are just a few of our achievements in 2019, thanks to supporters like you:

- Accredited in hospice care and certified in community palliative care by The Joint Commission.
- Launched Palliative Care program led by a Nurse Practitioner and dedicated Registered Nurse.
- Refreshed www.hospicealliance.org for ease of use and enhancements including a caregiver portal featuring videos and guides.

However, Hospice Alliance needs your support once again to continue our mission in 2020 including:

- Furthering our commitment to veterans through We Honor Veterans, by earning our fifth star – the highest rank possible in the program.
- 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 families, friends and neighbors facing end-of-life. It truly is a gift of compassion. I ask that you remember the care Hospice Alliance provides during this season of giving.

Warm Regards,

Rita Hagen, MSN, RN
Executive Director

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.