



## Planting Memories

### Children's Bereavement Event

Hospice Alliance hosts its fourth annual Planting Memories this summer. Planting Memories is a bereavement event for children and an adult chaperone. Kids are invited to design and decorate a flowerpot before planting a flower of their choice. They can also enjoy music, activities and snacks. The family takes the original work of art home to serve as a memory of a loved one lost.

**For more information or to RSVP for the August 18th event call (262) 652-4400**



## ✧ Connections – Planting Seeds of Hope A Children's Grief Support Group

Last fall, Hospice Alliance introduced Connections – Planting Seeds of Hope, a support group for kids and their trusted grown up. Groups are offered on the third Thursday of each month from 5:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. at Hospice Alliance. Children ages two to eighteen are welcome, and each must be accompanied by an adult. An all-community offered resource, the support group is not limited to families with loved ones who received end-of-life care with Hospice Alliance.

“We saw a need that was going unmet, so we decided to fulfill the need,” said Rita Hagen, Hospice Alliance, Executive Director, “We are constantly seeking ways to provide services, not only for our patients and their families at end-of-life, but also after they experience loss. Our grief support programs have always been available to any adult in need. Now we are able to offer bereavement services to children as well.”

The program is managed by Jennifer Sytkowski, Bereavement Coordinator, Hospice Alliance, and a team of trained volunteers who function as facilitators and assistants. The curriculum and activities involved are developmentally appropriate as children will be grouped by age.

*continued on page 2*



On a sunny August evening, families gathered in the Hospice House Garden to create a custom designed terra cotta pot and plant a seedling of their choosing in memory of a loved one lost.

## A Message from our Executive Director



Dear Supporters of Hospice Alliance,  
When I'm in the community sharing the benefits of Hospice Alliance's hospice and palliative care, people are surprised if I only focus briefly on what people think of as "medical" care – our nurses, our certified nursing assistants (many who have spent decades serving our patients), the items reviewed by The Joint Commission and Medicare reimburses.

Oftentimes, I spend my time sharing the AMAZING services that we are able to provide because of gifts and donations from our supporters and grants from our community service organizations and groups. We offer a robust grief support program, available to anyone in the community. We offer Music Therapy to patients on service and groups at our area Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Homes.

Most recently, we created a position: "Life Enrichment Coordinator." As we witnessed the ramifications of the safety measures put in place by the pandemic, and identified an opportunity to remedy the effects, we grew our programming. In partnership with over 30 Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Facilities and other area senior-gathering locations, we host engaging and joyful interactive events including skill-appropriate exercise, game show themed programs and sing-alongs.

At Hospice Alliance, not only are we committed to our patients and their families, but our entire community. And we are proud to partner with our supporters to "add life to days."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita".

Rita Hagen, MSN, RN  
Executive Director

*continued from page 1*

"Children who have lost someone important to them do not have to "stay stuck" in an isolating, broken experience. Rather, working through loss with the support of others can potentially teach resilience, empathy, creativity, and perseverance. By honoring grief and integrating loss in healthy and meaningful ways, we can help support families who are seeking it. Connections is a powerful resource for our communities," shared Jenny Sytkowski, Bereavement Coordinator.

For more information about Connections, and all bereavement services Hospice Alliance offers visit: [www.hospicealliance.org/grief-support/connections/](http://www.hospicealliance.org/grief-support/connections/)



Kids enjoy the comradery of Connections. The boys pictured each lost a person of significance and are learning, in an age-appropriate manner, that sadness and healing can take time.



Connections participants often utilize a craft project as part of the program. The ribbon colors represent specific feelings, while the handwritten note includes a special memory.



Stay connected! Like our Facebook Page!  
Hospice Alliance & Hospice Alliance Foundation

[www.hospicealliance.org](http://www.hospicealliance.org)

# \* An Evening of Wishes

On an unseasonably warm Saturday evening in March, Hospice Alliance hosted its 9th annual An Evening of Wishes event. The event looked a little different than it did in '21, as it was held virtually then, with carry-out dinners. And it felt a little different than it did in '20, as attendees were unaware of way-of-life changing pandemic that would soon hit. This year, the joy of the gathering was evident and the support for quality, compassionate end-of-life care shown through like never before.



Current and past Board of Directors presidents recognize Rita Hagen, Executive Director for her dedication and commitment to Hospice Alliance, its patients, and families.

showcased by newly crowned Miss Kenosha, Jenna Zeihen or securing seats at the Premier Table for filet and shrimp and champagne courtesy of Uline.

While the location changed to The Club at Strawberry Creek, the sounds did not as The Southport Sound provided the musical backdrop and Tom Karnes of LaMacchia Travel playfully upped live auction bids and Support the Mission donations.

The evening's highlight included previously honored board members, John Plous and Dick Regner, and Sandy Riese represented their fellow board members in honoring Rita Hagen, Hospice Alliance Executive Director for her work and dedication. Prior to her move to Executive Director nearly ten years ago, she, too, was a member of the Operations Board of Directors.

As the evening came to a close with auction winners loading up their cars, making plans to use their winnings and chatting about next year's event, the Hospice Alliance board members, staff, and volunteers shared their gratitude and for a lovely evening in support of end-of-life care in our community.

Above Right: Recently crowned Miss Kenosha, Jenna Zeihen showcases the prize for the Razzle Dazzle Raffle.

Right: Guests made new connections and celebrated old ones. There was a sense of joy and excitement in being together after the last few years have kept people apart.

Event photos thanks to Stephanie Z Photography can be viewed at [www.hospicealliance.org](http://www.hospicealliance.org)



## Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

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# \* Brenda Zwickey, CPNA Celebrates 30 Years of Caring

When Brenda is asked to reflect on three decades of caring for Hospice Alliance patients, she lights up. She still remembers her very first patient, Carl, and his sweet wife Hazel and all of her patients and their families since.

“I love what I do. It is rewarding to take care of people’s loved ones as they are living their last days. Hospice care is not just for the person with the disease, but everyone close to the patient. But people hear the word “hospice” and get scared. They do not realize how much we can help.”

Going on a total of four decades as a certified nursing assistant, she spent her first nine at a Kenosha skilled nursing facility before her friend suggested she come to Hospice Alliance. When she is not caring for her patients, Brenda enjoys time with her grandkids, watching the Hallmark Channel and cooking for her family.

“Brenda puts our patients and their families at ease with her compassionate care. She has a knack of knowing just the right approach to take to make the day better for her patients. We have had many families come back to Hospice Alliance and request Brenda for other loved ones again. She truly is a blessing to her patients and families,” shared Lynda Becker, CNA Manager.

A testament to Brenda’s compassionate, quality care, past families request her directly when a new family member needs hospice services.



## \* Hospice Alliance Wish List

- Any colored (no white or cream) hand towels and washcloths for our Hospice House patients
  - Gift cards (Pick n’ Save, Meijer, Target, Hobby Lobby, Michaels, Walmart) to be used for food and materials in the Hospice House, Connections program, Life Enrichment items, and Bereavement
  - Garden center/nursery gift certificates (to be used for the Hospice House Garden)
  - Full size cotton sheets for the Hospice House
  - Kitchen towels for the Hospice House
  - Soft blankets (twin and full) for the Hospice House
  - Covered cups/lightweight with lids for Hospice House patients
  - Gift cards to JoAnn Fabrics (used for crafts, Life Enrichment supplies, Connections program items, and Memory Bear supplies)
  - Women’s nightgowns in M-L-XL for Hospice House patients
  - Men’s flannel shirts in M-L-XL for Hospice House patients
  - Cookie/banana bread/cake/brownie/pancake mixes/syrup for the Hospice House
  - Chapstick or lip balms (not Carmex)
  - Small lotions
  - Men’s disposable razors with three blades
  - Shaving cream
  - Nail polish and remover
  - Upright cordless vacuum (Shark or similar)
- Please deliver items (or arrange for pick up)  
by calling (262) 652-4400**

# \* At Hospice Alliance We Celebrate!

Oftentimes, people feel that choosing hospice care is “giving up,” that it is time to make arrangements for the likely future outcome and simply wait. However, that is not the philosophy of hospice care, and Hospice Alliance embraces its mission of “adding life to days.” Patients who celebrate birthdays while in our care all receive a balloon and card to commemorate the day.

On a sunny day in August, with the support of the Hospice House team, Dorothy Waltenberger celebrated her 100th trip around the sun!

Since Dorothy was a resident in the Hospice House at the time, her daughter organized the celebration and hosted the celebration in the business office Board Room adjacent to the house. With plenty of cake to share and laughter all around, Hospice House Manager, Lindsey Mayer, described Dorothy as “ecstatic.”



Above: Dorothy celebrates the big 1-0-0 with the singing of “Happy Birthday” and cake complete with candles to be wished upon.

Left: Sporting her “100 and Fabulous” sash, Dorothy enjoys the afternoon reading cards, sharing cake and time with generations of her family.

# \* Missionwear Has Meaning!

Are you looking for an effortless way to support Hospice Alliance and show how much you care about end-of-life care in our community? Visit [www.hospicealliance.org/missionwear](http://www.hospicealliance.org/missionwear). Choose from some great gear and fun swag. In partnership with Kenosha Spiritwear, 10% of all purchases are donated to Hospice Alliance. But even better, you will be advocating for compassionate care every time you put on your shirt or fill up your mug!



**Place Your Order Today!**

## Hospice Alliance – Dining for Donations

**Mason’s Eatery & Pub**  
June 30th, 4PM - 10PM

**Ruffolo’s Special Pizza II**  
July 13th, 4PM - 9PM

**Jimano’s Pizzeria**  
August 17th

**Infusino’s Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria**  
September TBD

**El Camino Kitchen**  
October 11

**Nothing Bundt Cakes**  
November 14th – 19th  
Place orders all week!

**Kendra Scott Online Shopping Event**  
December 1st - 2nd

**Thank You For Your Support!**



Our 9th Annual An Evening of Wishes will be held Saturday, **March 4, 2023** at The Club at Strawberry Creek. To be included in event communication, please call 262.652.4400.

## Upcoming Events

Please check [hospicealliance.org](http://hospicealliance.org) as all dates and times are subject to change due to COVID-19.

### Veterans Cafe

Gooseberries Fresh Food Market  
690 W. State St., Burlington, WI  
Every 2nd Thursday, 8:00AM - 10:00AM

### Connections - Planting Seeds of Hope Children's Grief Support

Hospice Alliance  
October - May  
3rd Thursday, 5:00PM

### Service of Remembrance & Memorial Brick Dedication

Kemper Center, Founders Hall  
June 29, 2022, 5:00PM

### Planting Memories

Hospice Alliance Gardens  
August 18, 2022, 5:30PM - 6:30PM

### Ring and Remember

Kemper Center, Founders Hall  
November 10, 2022, 5:00PM

### Evening of Wishes

The Club at Strawberry Creek  
March 4, 2023



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Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158

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compassionate, community, non-profit  
hospice, incorporated in 1981.

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For more information visit  
[www.hospicealliance.org](http://www.hospicealliance.org)