



## Best in Kenosha: Senior Care Health & Wellness + Workplace

We are so proud and grateful for recognition in our community!

In late 2022, Hospice Alliance was selected by the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce as Best Place to Work in Kenosha County. We're incredibly humbled that our employees nominated us for this award. Without a doubt, much of their pride is rooted in our mission and the commitment we have for the people we serve.

Interested in joining our team? Visit: [hospicealliance.org/about-us/careers](https://hospicealliance.org/about-us/careers) for our latest openings!

We were also awarded Best of Kenosha County for Senior Care/Health and Wellness Services for the sixth year in a row! If you'd like to help us keep our streak, follow along on Facebook and Instagram! We'll let you know with it's time to submit nominations for 2023 and vote for the 2023 winners. Thank you to everyone who made an effort to recognize our staff and volunteers for their commitment to quality compassionate care!



## Honoring Our Heroes

On Wednesday, March 29th our We Honor Veterans committee volunteered at a very special Hero's Café.

In 1973, March 29<sup>th</sup> was the day the last of our U.S. combat troops and prisoners were withdrawn from Vietnam to return home. So, on this day 50 years later, Hospice Alliance commemorated National Vietnam War Veterans Day and the milestone anniversary of the end of the war with our local heroes.

Our Vietnam Era Veteran volunteers, Cindy and Steve, continued to help Hospice

Alliance honor our Vietnam Veteran patients after the café by personally delivering tribute gifts and complimentary Mission BBQ sandwiches to their homes or facilities.

We thank the Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, and hope they had as lovely a time as we did welcoming them home together 50 years later.

*continued on page 2*



Hospice Alliance volunteers and staff members frequently volunteer at Hero's Cafés at Festival Foods in Kenosha and Somers. Hospice Alliance offers a monthly Veterans Café at Berkot's Super Foods in Burlington every 2nd Thursday, too.



Vietnam Veterans were considered "guests of honor" at the special Hero's Café held on Wednesday, March 29th in honor of Vietnam War Veterans Day. March 29th is the date chosen in recognition of the day the last American troops departed Vietnam in 1973.





Rita Hagen,  
Executive Director

## A Message from our Executive Director

To our wonderful supporters,

Our mission at Hospice Alliance is to help those with life-limiting illnesses continue each day with dignity, comfort, and hope, while providing compassionate care and clear information to them, their families, and the communities we serve. So, when I receive notes like these from our patients' loved ones my heart fills with warmth and joy.

*"Hospice Alliance nurses and staff are truly doing God's work on earth. I would not have been able to keep my husband at home without their kind and compassionate care, and the support that they showed me through his last days."*

To show empathy and compassion to our neighbors in their time of need is what we're here for – and we couldn't do it without you. Stephan Hawking said, "The quality I would most like to magnify is empathy. It brings us together in a peaceful, loving state." Dr. Brene Brown says, "Empathy is simply listening, holding space, withholding judgement,

emotionally connecting, and communicating that incredibly healing message of 'you're not alone.'"

To be empathetic, we must put ourselves in another's shoes, and imagine what's happening to them as if it were happening to us. Then, we must care for them wholeheartedly, how we'd wish to be cared for.

*"Dearest Hospice Alliance Staff – when I count my blessings, I count you twice. Thank you for the tender caring that you did so well. You made us at ease during the difficult week as we said our goodbyes to our beautiful mother."*

We're proud of the empathy shown by the entirety of our Hospice Alliance community – from our hardworking care team, support staff, and loving volunteers to the generous giving of local businesses and members of our Southeastern Wisconsin area.

Your support allows us to forge ahead devotedly towards a society that happily helps care for one another. Thank you for being a part of our mission.

Rita Hagen, MSN, RN  
Executive Director

*continued from page 1*

For decades, we have given special tribute to veterans in our care. After identifying the patient's era and branch of military service, and determining the location and capacity of their pinning ceremony, we present them with our 'Veteran's Honors Bundle', including a framed and personalized certificate, a Branch of Service lapel pin, and a red, white and blue blanket crocheted or knitted by generous volunteers and local groups. When we're unable to present a patient with their recognition gift, their family will receive the items in their loved one's honor.

Hospice Alliance continues to maintain its five-star recognition in the We Honor Veterans program developed by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). As a part of this program, we provide numerous resources and educational opportunities for our staff and the community members we serve. Please reach out for more information!



Every Hospice Alliance patient who served our country receives a "thank you for your service" package include a patriotic Afghan or quilt, certificate, benefit workbook and the opportunity to participate in a pinning ceremony.



# \*Cheers to 10 Years! An Evening of Wishes

This year, Hospice Alliance celebrated our 10th annual gala fundraiser, An Evening of Wishes.

Our committee worked hard sending out requests for support prior to the gala, and we received over one hundred donations for our event! 107 silent auctions and 10 live auctions to be exact! We had a few new live auction items this year – a private lakeshore pedal tour party; a highly valued rolling toolbox, and a smokeless backyard firepit among other popular items like the WWII bi-plane ride, Whistling Straits golf outing, Bucks and Brewers tickets, and a sailboat ride on Lake Michigan!

The evening's honorees, Foundation Board member Dennis Mattioli and Operations and Foundations Board member Tom Tenuta, were awarded for their many contributions to Hospice Alliance and our community. Attendees welcomed each to the podium with a much-deserved standing ovation.

This year we got to meet the newly crowned and absolutely lovely Miss Kenosha, Willow Newell. She helped sell and raffle another beautiful gold and diamond necklace donated by Herbert's Jewelers, valued at \$1,450! Per tradition, one lucky group won the chance to upgrade to our Premier Table for tenderloin, shrimp, crème brulee and champagne service.

Our trusted crew, Southport Sound and Shannon Z Photography, were hard at work throughout the night, entertaining guests and capturing memories. Our ballroom tables looked beautiful with floral centerpieces from local businesses, and attendees were encouraged to take them home for a small donation. The evening ended with a moving demonstration from the Lake County Threshold Singers, who come in to lovingly sing to our Hospice House patients every month.

Hospice Alliance honored Dennis Mattioli (below) and Tom Tenuta (right), two longtime members of the Boards of Directors, for their commitment to supporting quality, compassionate, end-of-life care in our community.



Right: Over 200 guests enjoyed drinks and appetizers as they mixed and mingled while bidding on silent auction items prior to dinner in the ballroom at The Club at Strawberry Creek.



## Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

### Gold Sponsors



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## \* A Dandy Employee: Regina McGee, CNA Wins 2022 Caregiver Spotlight Award



Regina McGee, CNA

We are so proud to share that Regina McGee, CNA, won the 2022 Caregiver Spotlight Award from the Wisconsin Long-Term Care Workforce Alliance! These annual Caregiver Awards provide the only statewide recognition of the outstanding individuals with frontline roles in our community. We are thrilled that Regina's compassionate care is acknowledged.

Regina's nomination, submitted by Lynda Becker, Hospice Alliance CNA Supervisor, read:

"Hospice Alliance has been very fortunate for the last 15 years to have Regina McGee on our team. She provides a light in the lives of her patients and families in their darkest times. Patients and families have reported feeling much more at ease knowing that Regina is there for them. She represents Hospice Alliance in the best possible way with her positive, calm approach and professional demeanor. Regina can go into any situation and bring the patient and family comfort and reassurance with her cares. She is a wonderful listener and effective communicator. Regina is a preceptor for our new CNAs. She sets expectations high and inspires them to provide that same exceptional level of care."

Our community liaisons tell us that partnering facilities always speak highly of her and in-turn, request Hospice Alliance for their residents. Our Executive Director, Rita Hagen, stated, "I am continuously impressed with Regina – her dedication, commitment, and care shown to our patients and families, and her incredible work ethic. We are lucky and grateful to have her as a member of our team."

Thank you, Regina, for the contributions you make in service to the health and wellbeing of our community.



Regina McGee, CNA, assists a patient in her care during a sing-along hosted at one of Hospice Alliance's partners in care residences.

## \* Stay Gold: The Joint Commission Recertifies Hospice Alliance

Last Fall, Hospice Alliance was proudly re-certified by The Joint Commission in both hospice and palliative care! Our team received another three-year period with The Gold Seal of Approval – an internationally recognized symbol of quality improvement and patient safety in healthcare.



From The Joint Commission themselves, "The Gold Seal of Approval is a voluntary distinction earned by a select set of healthcare providers. An organization that achieves this accreditation shows its commitment to holding itself accountable to a high bar for quality and safety for those they serve."

To receive this recognition, specially trained healthcare professionals who are experts in their fields must visit the organization to assess their compliance to a rigorous set of Joint Commission performance standards. These standards focus on important patient/resident care and organization functions identified as essential to providing safe, high-quality care. The standards are developed with input from healthcare professionals, providers, subject matter experts, consumers, and government agencies.

We are pleased to not only have met The Joint Commission's requirements, but to consistently go above and beyond the traditional state and federal government standards.





Kids of all ages and their trusted adults gather in the Hospice House gardens to celebrate the memory of an important person who passed.

## \* Planting Memories

Each summer, children, young adults and their adult chaperones from the community are invited to Hospice Alliance's Hospice House Garden for our Planting Memories event. Children are invited to paint a small flowerpot, then plant a flower of their choice in memory of a loved one lost. Join us for this fun and meaningful activity, plus refreshments, music, community, and a special keepsake to take home.

**August 17th • 5:30–6:30pm**

**For more information  
or to RSVP for the event  
call (262) 652-4482 x1268**

Hospice Alliance's amazing volunteers help to host this important event. Pictured here are Judy and Steve, who are the epitome of the vision of our founders.



## \* Ring and Remember

Each November, family and friends of patients cared for by Hospice Alliance, are invited to attend Ring and Remember, a short service consisting of song, reflection, the symbolic ringing of bells, and the special impact it makes in your healing. Most recently, the event has been held at Founder's Hall in Kemper Center featuring lovely tributes from St. Mary's Jubilate, the Handbell Choir of St. Mary's Lutheran Church.

**Consider joining us:  
November 9th  
5:00–6:00pm at Kemper Center  
For more information or to  
RSVP for the event,  
please call (262) 652-4400.**

St. Mary's Jubilate delighted guests with their prolific playing at our fall remembrance event.



## Upcoming Events

### Veterans Cafe

Berkot's Super Foods  
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

Kemper Center  
June 28, 2023, 5:00PM

### Ring and Remember

Kemper Center, Founders Hall  
November 9, 2023, 5:00PM

### Evening of Wishes

The Club at Strawberry Creek  
March 2, 2024

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

# Hospice Alliance Dining for Donations

**May 18th – MOD Pizza**

11:00am - 7:00pm

**June 14th – El Camino Kitchen**

11:00am - 10:00pm

**July 12th – Ruffolo's Special Pizza 2**

4:00pm - 9:00pm

**August 17th – Mason's Eatery & Pub**

4:00pm - 10:00pm

**September 14th – Infusino's Italian  
Restaurant & Pizzeria**

4:00pm - 9:00pm

**October 10th  
Tuscany Bistro Bar & Grill**

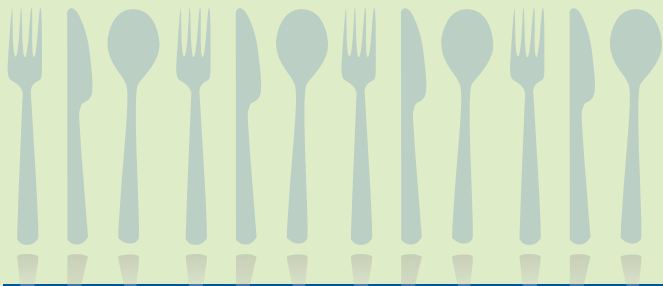
4:00pm - 9:30pm

**November 13th – 18th  
Nothing Bundt Cakes**

**December – Kendra Scott Gives Back  
online fundraiser, December 1st & 2nd**

**Visit [hospicealliance.org](https://hospicealliance.org) for updates**

**Thank You For Your Support!**



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



**Stay connected!**

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all Hospice Alliance's activities and offerings.

- [facebook.com/hospicealliance](https://facebook.com/hospicealliance)
- [instagram.com/hospice.alliance](https://instagram.com/hospice.alliance)
- [linkedin.com/company/hospice-alliance](https://linkedin.com/company/hospice-alliance)
- community mailings [hospicealliance.org/outreach](https://hospicealliance.org/outreach)



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

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