



Hospice Alliance

# HOPE NOTES

SPRING 2025

## Introducing Mynd Immersive: Senior-Friendly Virtual Reality Platform

Introducing our newest complementary therapy, Mynd Immersive! Mynd Immersive is a senior-friendly virtual reality platform used with patients as digital therapy. Digital therapies help maximize comfort and reduce pain and anxiety in patients by addressing the patient's physical, psychological, and spiritual needs. Patients can view over 100 virtual reality experiences through VR glasses. With the help of Mynd Immersive, your loved one can travel to famous cities or landmarks, watch a Broadway musical, tour a classic car museum, fly with astronauts to space, and experience so much more.

Utilizing Mynd Immersive also helps us honor those who have served through veteran-related experiences such as touring war memorials in Washington D.C., touring an aircraft carrier – USS Nimitz or USS Eisenhower, and watching a USO show. In October of 2023, our Volunteer Manager, Beth, learned about Mynd Immersive through a Veteran Services Webinar where a representative of the company shared the experiences available for veterans. Beth shared, “I was immediately interested in the program because I just had the honor of serving as a guardian on an Honor Flight to Washington [D.C.] and saw how impactful seeing the war memorials is for veterans.”

At Hospice Alliance, our mission is to improve the quality of life for our patients. Now that the digital therapy program is in place, we have seen how impactful offering these experiences is for our patients.

*This would not have been possible without grants received from the Kenosha Lions Club and the Kenosha Community Foundation. We are honored to have been awarded funds from 100+ Women Who Care – Kenosha, and Mary Taske, which will allow us to continue providing this service to our patients for many years.*



## Burlington Veteran Café

We are proud to announce our Burlington Veteran Café, held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 8:30 – 10:30 am at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 216 E Chandler Blvd., Burlington. We invite any and all military veterans to join us for this monthly get-together.



*Hospice Alliance staff member Beth introducing Mynd Immersive to those who attended the American Heroes Café-Kenosha.*

# A Message from our Executive Director

As spring brings renewal and hope, we are reminded of the purpose that guides us every day at Hospice Alliance: to walk alongside our patients and their families with compassion, commitment, and care.

At the heart of everything we do is our mission to add life to days to ensure that every moment is filled with dignity, comfort, and connection. Whether it's through medical care, emotional support, or simply holding a hand in a quiet moment, we are privileged to be invited into people's lives at a time that is often their most vulnerable.

This season, our newsletter is filled with stories and updates that reflect the dedication of our team, the resilience of the families we serve, and the generosity of our community. We are deeply grateful for the donors who give so selflessly, whether through time, talent, or financial gifts. Your support makes a profound difference, allowing us to meet people where they are, and offer care that is both expert and deeply human.

Caring for patients and families in this way is not just our work, it is our calling. Thank you for being a part of it.

Gratefully,



Rita Hagen, MSN, RN  
Executive Director



Rita Hagen, Executive Director

## Introducing Nadia!

We are happy to introduce our Life Enrichment Coordinator, Nadia Garcia, to our Hospice Alliance community members. Nadia spends her days engaging with seniors in senior care communities and day programs across Kenosha and Racine counties. Program offerings include group exercise, arts and crafts, cognitive group games, and educational learning activities. Offering life enrichment programming to our partners in care helps us continue our mission of "Adding Life to Days."



Nadia facilitates her pride and joy program for residents.

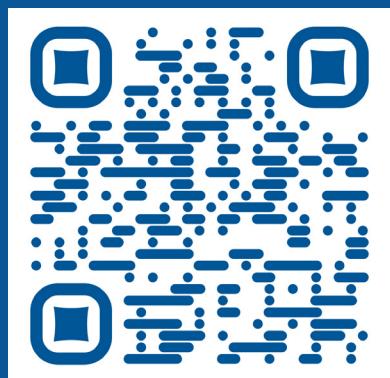


Nadia leads a dance fitness engagement for residents.

## Root River Poker Run is BACK!

Join us by land or sea for our 2nd annual Root River Poker Run on Saturday, July 19! Attendees will walk, bike, kayak, or dinghy to stops along the Racine Harbor to draw their poker cards and receive a stamp on their scorecard. Return to the Riverside Marina Clubhouse to turn in your scorecard and see who will take home the prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd best poker hand. Stick around for the afterparty catered by Joey's Yardarm!

Register by scanning the QR code or going to [hospicealliance.org/pokerrun](http://hospicealliance.org/pokerrun)



# An Evening of Wishes!

On March 1, over 260 members of the Hospice Alliance community attended our annual gala, An Evening of Wishes, at The Club at Strawberry Creek.

We are very grateful for all the donations from the community that made this event a success. This year, we had 135 silent auction items and 10 live auction items for attendees to bid on. Items auctioned off ranged from a solo stove to the penthouse at the Blackhawks to tickets to the Milwaukee Ballet—there was something for everyone!

Our honoree of the evening, Krissy Molinaro, was recognized as a dedicated volunteer to our organization. Krissy is always willing to lend a helping hand, whether it is creating a memory tree for our Service of Remembrance and handcrafting heart-shaped “leaves” for families to write the names of their loved ones on or decorating the Hospice House with seasonal décor, Krissy is always the first person to say, “I will do it, I would love to do it.” Not only does Krissy take care of our hospice house as if it were her own home, but she also offers companionship, visiting patients and families to help maintain the peaceful and serene environment.

Our gala would not be a success each year without the help of Krissy, her sister Brenda, and her “girls,” who spent the weeks leading up to the event putting together our amazing auction baskets and displays. On the day of the event, Krissy, Brenda, and their team arrive at the venue early in the morning to help organize the silent auction prizes and set up the décor on the dinner tables, working until the minute guests step through the door. We are grateful for Krissy’s love and dedication to our organization, patients, families, and employees.

This year, our mission moment highlighted our commitment to veterans, ensuring they receive the unique care and respect they deserve as they face their final journey. Scan the QR code or visit our YouTube page to view the video and learn more about our We Honor Veterans program.

We are thankful to everyone who attended this year’s event and hope you will join us again on March 7 next year.



2025 Honoree Krissy Molinaro with her family.

## Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



Nancy Piasecki



### Bronze Sponsors



Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial, COMMUNITY STATE BANK, WATERS EDGE HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER, Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin, Froedtert Pleasant Prairie Hospital, SC Johnson, GVP Good Value Pharmacy, Starlite Club



Guests browsed an array of silent auction prizes donated by the community.

## Honoring Those Who Served

Our Volunteer Manager, Chaplains, Music Therapist, Veteran Volunteers, and Marketing Department teamed up to honor 150 veterans across 12 senior care communities over 6 days to help our partners in care honor their residents who served. The event consisted of singing patriotic songs and presenting those who served with a certificate and a Hospice Alliance challenge coin. We are proud of our commitment to caring for those who selflessly served our country and proud to be one of three hospice providers in Wisconsin to be awarded five stars for our services.



Hospice Alliance staff members and Veteran Volunteers celebrate Veterans Day with residents of The Legacy at St. Joes.



Hospice Alliance staff members and Veteran Volunteers celebrate Veterans Day with residents of Brookdale Senior Living.



Scan to watch a brief video about Hospice Alliance's commitment to caring for those who served.

## Ring and Remember

Our fall memorial event, Ring and Remember, was held on November 14 at the Kemper Center. The event featured music by the St. Mary's Lutheran Bell Choir, our talented volunteers Janet and Sandy, and readings by Hospice Alliance staff Rita Hagen, Tina Putra, Jenny Sytkowski, and Chaplain Charlie Hansen. Attendees received a bell to ring in memory of their loved one.



Jubilate! The St. Mary's Lutheran bell choir performs at our Ring and Remember memorial event.



Volunteers Sandy and Janet perform musical selections at our Ring and Remember memorial event.

## Serving Our Seniors

Hospice Alliance hosts our Senior Expo at Haribo Hall at Gateway Technical College in Kenosha each fall. This year, we welcomed over 150 seniors from the community to connect with 55 senior service providers from Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth Counties. Vendors ranged from senior care communities and chiropractors to home remodeling and financial planning businesses. This event was a one-stop shop to connect with local companies that cater directly to seniors. We are thankful to our sponsors, Affordable Dentures & Implants, Brookdale Senior Living, Community Care, Grande Prairie Care & Rehab Center, Piasecki Funeral Home, Proko Funeral Home, Right at Home, and Universal Windows Direct, all of our wonderful vendors, and to Gateway Technical College for being a fantastic community partner and lending us your space for the day. Please save the date for October 9, 2025, when we hope to bring together more valuable resources for the community to connect with.



Hospice Alliance staff members Zeltzin and Rachel at the Serving Our Seniors Expo.



Hospice Alliance staff members Judy and Theresa at the Serving Our Seniors Expo.

## Holiday Memories

This December, we hosted our first Holiday Memories event at Hospice Alliance. Children and teens from the community were invited to our offices to decorate a holiday ornament in memory of a loved one.



Attendee holds the holiday ornament she created.



## Holiday Jingle Bus

The Hospice Alliance 'Jingle Bus' made stops at 11 senior care communities across Kenosha and Racine to spread holiday cheer! Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and Hospice Alliance singers!



Hospice Alliance staff members and volunteers spreading holiday cheer to senior care communities across Kenosha and Racine.

## Hospice Alliance DINING FOR DONATIONS

*Eat. Drink. Raise Funds.*

Please plan to support Hospice Alliance at our monthly Dining for Donations events! Join us for a delicious meal and fantastic shopping opportunities, all while supporting a wonderful cause. It's the perfect chance to enjoy some great local favorites, and we look forward to seeing you there! Each participating location has generously agreed to contribute a portion of their sales on the specified day and time to Hospice Alliance.

### **July 21 - Slip 56**

5 pm - 8 pm

### **August 21 - Mason's Eatery & Pub**

4 pm - 10 pm

### **September 18 - Infusino's Italian Restaurant & Pizzaeria**

4 pm - 10 pm

### **October 21 - Tuscan Bistro Bar & Grill**

4 pm - 9:30 pm

### **November 20 - Panera Bread**

4 pm - 9 pm

**Visit [hospicealliance.org/about-us/events](http://hospicealliance.org/about-us/events) for info, online order codes and updates**



# Hospice Alliance

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## SAVE THE DATE

### Root River Poker Run

Riverside Marina Clubhouse

July 19, 2025

### Planting Memories

Hospice Alliance Garden

August 14, 2025

### Serving Our Seniors Expo

Gateway Technical College

October 9, 2025

### Ring and Remember

Kemper Center, Founders Hall

November 13, 2025

### An Evening of Wishes

The Club at Strawberry Creek

March 7, 2026

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT!**

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

## Hospice Alliance

10220 Prairie Ridge Blvd.

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## Hospice Alliance Leadership

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Diana Christofferson

Michael Coleman

Cindy Franke

Katie Lachell

Rachael Proko Viola

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Nancy Retana

Ron Tenuta

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

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