



CELEBRATING **40** YEARS OF SERVICE

MOMENTS MATTER

1ST QUARTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

HWC'S MY WISH PROGRAM

CREATING MEANINGFUL MEMORIES

Hospice of Washington County's (HWC) My Wish Program continues to enrich the lives of patients and their families. HWC has granted over 150 wishes since the inception of the program in October of 2013.

Recently, HWC granted two unique wishes over the holiday season. The first was for our patient, Robert Weister, whose wish was for a holiday family open house with a traditional meal. But Mr. Weister did not want gifts. He wanted to help others, so he asked the open house attendees to bring gifts for children to give to the drive HWC was doing for Toys for Tots.

According to HWC's RN Lynn Milek, "Mr. Weister's wish was to bring his family together for a holiday meal resembling what his mother would have made including all the traditional food and a special punch. His goal was for family and friends to give a toy to a child in need. He knew the feeling of having little at the holidays as a child. Even in his last days he wanted to bring blessings and healing to others around him. He was able to do this

through My Wish. He was an inspiration to all who knew him."

Mr. Weister was able to collect two bags of toys, and they were placed in the Toys for Tots box at HWC. He passed away shortly after the open house.



HWC's My Wish Program Creating Meaningful Memories

Another unique wish that was recently granted came from HWC patient, Michael Delawter. Mr. Delawter asked to drive a military tank because he served as a Tank Commander in the Marines.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

My Wish Program Creating Meaningful Memories	1
A Message from the CEO	3
A Tribute to Bob Vidoni	4
Have a Heart for Hospice Radio-Thon	5
Philanthropic Award Recipient	6
Kass Scholarship	7
Employee Spotlight - Dr. Ponicano	8
International Suicide Awareness Day	9
2019 Wrap Up	10
Pet Piece of Mind	13
Wanted: Caring Hearts	14
Thank You for Joining	15

HWC's My Wish Program Continued...

"With this Wish, we first had to locate a tank, and it just happened that Tom Riford was serving as Master of Ceremonies at our Helping Hands event," stated Karen Giffin, Senior Director of Development and Public Relations. "Of course, Tom knew of someone who owned a tank. It was Val Sasmore. Val had a 1960 British Ferret and graciously agreed to help. He and his wife welcomed the patient and hospice to their home."

With the help of County Medical Transport, Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company and Washington County Division of Emergency Services, Mr. Delawter was transported to Mr. Sasmore's home and was assisted in being placed in the tank and when riding in the tank.

"On behalf of the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company we are honored that we could assist the family and friends with this special wish," stated Matt Stevens, Fire Chief of Sharpsburg. "As always we support our veterans."

According to Jonathan D. Hart, Assistant Director of Washington County Division of Emergency Services, "We are grateful for having had the opportunity to help fulfill the request of one of our country's veterans."

Ms. Milek stated that when she asked him if the ride was what he thought it would be. He answered by saying no, it was better.



HWC's My Wish Program Creating Meaningful Memories

Later in the week, two of HWC's Vet-to-Vet Program Volunteers conducted a pinning ceremony in Mr. Delawter's home. Mr. Delawter passed away the next day.

HWC is able to continue the My Wish Program because of the generous donors in our community. "The generosity of this community is always heartwarming and amazing," stated Ms. Giffin. "We thank everyone for helping our patients experience their wish at the end-of-life."

"The importance of the My Wish program is that it allows our patients to think outside of their disease and gives them hope that they can experience joy in what is many times their final days," concluded Ms. Milek.

If you are interested in donating to the My Wish Program, you can call the Development Department at 301-791-6360 or visit hospiceofwc.org/my-wish-program.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As we transition into a new year, Hospice of Washington County is blessed to be able to celebrate our 40th Anniversary!

Since 1980, we alone have provided all of the hospice care in Washington County and continue to do so with the same level of passion, commitment, and vigor that the first organizing group carried in the early days of the organization.

The concept of bringing end of life care (hospice) to Washington County started in the late 70s while a national movement was taking form and many communities were embracing a new philosophy of care. At the time, death and dying was being managed differently and inconsistently throughout our healthcare organizations. Many patients were suffering unnecessarily because many of the healthcare providers were not comfortable or experienced in managing symptoms associated with dying.

Locally, a group of healthcare advocates started having broad discussions about establishing a framework for hospice services in Washington County. Many of the individuals directly involved in these early discussions included Harry Baxter, Marion Boward, Jim Witherspoon, Diane Cushwa and Bob Brandt.

The early days of Hospice of Washington County included a completely volunteer staff working out of a small rent-free space at the Presbyterian Church of Hagerstown on Prospect Road. The church also made the first substantial financial commitment to the hospice of \$500. Within the space allocated by the church, the small group of staff volunteered their time and energy to help create awareness and help meet the end of life needs of the community.

The very first volunteer training course graduated 21 individuals in May of 1981. In July the very first patient was admitted! That first year of care provision benefited twelve patients and their families.

It would be almost two years later (1982) when the organization was able to fund its first paid position, a part-time case coordinator, through a grant secured from the Public Welfare Foundation in

Washington, DC. It wouldn't be until 1983 when the first Executive Director would be hired - Judy Lyons Wolf.

With time the organization slowly grew and as hospice services became more accepted and families voiced their gratitude and satisfaction of these critical services, and Hospice of Washington County thrived.

In 1984, a volunteer of almost two years, Dr. Frederic Kass (hematology and oncology), was named the organization's first Medical Director.

As the organization grew, it quickly ran out of space. In 1994 moved their main offices to Baltimore Street where now there were seven full-time paid staff. A decade of continued growth, acceptance, and community goodwill led to yet another move. This time offices were allocated on the 3rd floor of the Western Maryland Hospital, where hospice beds were reserved and helped serve the growing acceptance and value of hospice services.

In 2006, the organization was able to acquire a large space off Northern Avenue where today operations continue to thrive and support several specialized programs that exclusively serve the residents of Washington County.

Today, we have over 150 employees, 200 volunteers, a census average of 230 patients, a large palliative care program with over 225 patients, four locations including our Palliative Care outpatient clinic in Boonsboro, MD, Doey's House (the region's first and only Inpatient Hospice Unit,) and our newest location in Chambersburg, PA where we are in the process of initiating services for the Franklin County communities.

The first 40 years have brought tremendous value to the community and have driven change and acceptance for the hospice philosophy of care. As we embark on the start of a new decade, we are blessed with the established foundation, encouraged with what has been built, and excited about what we have planned ahead for the future.



Ernesto Lopez

A TRIBUTE TO BOB VIDONI

WRITTEN BY DOLORES VIDONI

My husband Bob was a chef and owned a restaurant with his family for many years. His love of food and decorating with food was a passion he thoroughly enjoyed.

He was born in Italy and came to the United States at 6-months-old with his mother. His father was working at Security at the time, and they settled in a small house nearby.



Bob Vidoni

There were many single men working with him, and he occasionally invited them to dinner. This went on for a while as Mrs. Vidoni was an excellent cook, and Bob inherited her talent. After hearing many compliments, they

decided to open a restaurant in their home. After Bob received a certificate for masonry, he and his father built the addition. Their opening day was December 30, 1948. Bob was 18 years old and his sister Dolores was 17. He was a waiter and she was a waitress, besides doing other work. The business started small, but over the years it grew to represent the hard work the family put into it. We sold it in 1998, 50 years later.

Bob's goal after retirement was to travel, and we did! We visited many places that we had dreamed about. Our greatest trip was to Africa, and we hoped to go back one day but never did. We visited Australia, New Zealand and Italy; we still have relatives there. Our saddest travel memory was 9/11/2001. We were in Ireland, getting ready to come home, when we heard the horrible news of the World Trade Center, The Pentagon, and Shanksville tragedies. Our return was delayed for five days, and they were not happy days. As time passed, we did other things, especially visiting with our children and grandchildren. He was so proud of all of them because he knew they loved him and enjoyed being with him.

I came into the family during the last 20 years of the business and I also worked there, together with the rest of the family and all of the

grandchildren. Bob's parents had close friends who lived in New York, and when they were there for a restaurant trade show, they would visit them. During one of these visits I was introduced to Bob's parents. They were traveling with their nephew, who was visiting from Italy. He spoke no English, but I spoke Italian, so we talked during the evening. A few days later I received a call from my friend saying that Bob had called to ask for my phone number. Reluctantly, I said yes. He called, and we made arrangements to meet on a weekend in November. Our blind date never happened because it was the weekend John F. Kennedy was killed. Our meeting was delayed until February of 1964. Finally, 6 years later we married, and it lasted 47 1/2 yrs.

As our retirement went on, things were good. However, in 2013 and 2014, I began to notice some changes in Bob. It was hard for him to make decisions or handle money. He loved Sudoku but stopped playing it. When it became hard for him to read a menu, we joked about it being old age. Things got worse. He thought his parents and sister were still alive, and when I would try to tell him they had passed, he became angry and said nobody told him. It was difficult to take him out to restaurants or church as he would get lost going to the rest room. He was diagnosed in 2015. Taking care of him was the hardest thing I had to do in my life.

I was very fortunate to find Hospice of Washington County (HWC) and learn about all the wonderful care they provide to the community. Our lives changed the very first day HWC came into our home. Bob enjoyed visiting and joking with the health providers, even giving food hints. For me their respite care was a God send. When you are caring for someone with dementia or any other serious disease, your life stops and only continues in caring for your loved one. I am still a part of HWC as I attend the bereavement meetings. The hardest part of this journey together was when he did not know me and then saying goodbye.

Bob died in February of 2018 and as a memorial to him asked that donations be made to HWC.



“HAVE A HEART FOR HOSPICE” RADIO-THON

WITH WJEJ RADIO 1240 AND LOU SCALLY

WJEJ Radio 1240 and Lou Scally will be back at Hospice of Washington County's (HWC) office at 747 Northern Avenue on Saturday, February 15, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the 7th Annual “Have A Heart for Hospice” Radio-Thon. The proceeds will support the Doey's House Ventilator Patient Oxygen Support Service Project. The number to call is 301-791-6927.

“We are so honored to host Lou Scally and WJEJ, a cornerstone of community support in Washington County. We started the event to help build Doey's House, and now it is helping in the second phase of the campaign for building the endowment,” stated Karen Giffin, Senior Director of Development and Public Relations. “Mr. Scally had the idea of bringing the Radio-Thon on the road to our main office beside Northern Middle School two years ago, and the event worked out tremendously.”

Giffin went on to say that Lou Scally has been a big supporter of HWC and its mission. “Because of his passion for quality end-of-life care for everyone in the community, WJEJ's commitment and the commitment of their listeners has grown each year.”

“Many people have been touched by the services and programs of hospice in our community,” stated Lou Scally. “HWC also provides much-needed Bereavement Programs for hospice patients, their families and the community free of charge. HWC does not turn anyone away from hospice services in our community regardless of their ability to pay. Over 450 patients have been served at Doey's House to date, and with the funds we are raising even more community members will be able to be

served at Doey's House. We hope everyone will call in that day to help.”

During the Radio-Thon, individuals can challenge their friends and make a difference while having fun, enjoying prizes and more. The first 25 callers will receive a Hospice Cup, and the first 25 pledges of \$250 or more will receive a Hospice Insulated Tumbler. All donors pledging \$250 or more will be able to inscribe a Doey's House Paver and be placed in a drawing for a Leitersberg Cinemas Golden Ticket. There are a number of hourly prizes including gift certificates from Gordon's Grocery, Grease Monkey, and Hagerstown Auto Spa. And individuals who donate \$100 in the final hour will be placed in a raffle for one dozen Krumpes donuts for each month of the year. Breakfast is being provided by The Nook and lunch by Chick-Fil-A for our volunteers.

In addition to helping spread the word about what services Hospice of Washington County offers and updates on Doey's House, the radio station is hoping listeners across the community will offer financial support during the four-hour Radio-Thon and assist in the endowment campaign.

“We invite individuals to be part of this event by calling 301-791-6927 or by stopping by 747 Northern Avenue on Feb. 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,” stated Ms. Giffin. “We will also have information available on our services and programs.”



Commissioner Jeff Cline

PHILANTHROPIC AWARD RECIPIENT - SUSAN WOOD

Hospice of Washington County's Development Committee recently announced Susan Wood as the 2019 Philanthropy Volunteer of the Year for Hospice of Washington County. The announcement was made at the Helping Hands Event in November during National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

During her tenure on the Board of Directors at Hospice of Washington County, Susan served two years each as Vice Chairman then Board Chairman, as well as serving on various committees. Since her Board term ended, Susan Wood has continued to help with fundraising and is an integral part of the Board's Development Committee.

According to Susan, some of her favorite memories with hospice include:

- Hearing the many stories from families who experienced the special support, compassion and expertise from the wonderful staff and volunteers of Hospice.
- Being at Doey's House ribbon cutting ceremony and realizing how important the fundraising efforts were to make this dream real for so many families in our community.
- Making new friends and being so touched by the generosity of our donors who believe in our mission.
- Having a lot of fun helping with fundraising events such as being a Celebrity Waiter at the 2018 Celebrations Event.

Susan sponsored a patient room at Doey's House in honor of her father, David Raymer, who had been a hospice patient, and this year she founded and sponsored a new event entitled Tea, Bags and More. She made sure that each attendee went home with a new purse.

Susan says that being a Hospice volunteer has been such a meaningful part of her life. She

has learned so much about the many services Hospice offers, and how important they have been in the lives of thousands of families during and after their loved ones' final life journey. Congratulations to Susan Wood!

MYTH BOX

MYTH 1:

HOSPICE IS JUST FOR CANCER PATIENTS.

Certainly, cancer patients make up a large number of hospice patients. However, anyone who has a terminal illness, whether it's heart disease, COPD, liver disease, kidney failure, stroke, ALS, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, AIDS or any life-limiting condition, is eligible for hospice care.

MYTH 2:

HOSPICE IS ONLY USED IN THE VERY LAST WEEKS OF LIFE.

Hospice care can begin when the patient's physician gives a prognosis of six months or less if the disease follows the expected course. Hospice often provides such comfort and support that many outlive their expected prognosis. Help is available for nursing care, personal care, spiritual support, expert pain and symptom relief, related medications, medical equipment, grief and bereavement counseling, volunteer services, and caregiver education. Support is available by phone 24/7. Call anytime, 301-791-6360! We care for the whole family!

Hospice is a fully covered benefit by Medicare and Medicaid and is covered by most private pay insurance. To learn more, visit hospiceofwc.org.



Susan Wood as a Celebrity Waiter for the Annual Celebrations Gala

KASS SCHOLARSHIP NOW AVAILABLE

Frederic H. Kass III, M.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund Taking Applications.

Applications for the 2020 Frederic H. Kass III, M.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund are now available. Dr. Kass is one of the founders of Hospice of Washington County, Inc. (HWC) which began in 1980 and is celebrating its 40th Anniversary.



Dr. Kass

To honor Dr. Kass's tireless efforts, HWC's Board of Directors established the Frederic H. Kass III, M.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund. This fund is designed to support students in Washington County pursuing a career in the healthcare field. The fund is made possible by individuals and organizations who have given generously to encourage these pursuits.

"Hospice of Washington County provides comprehensive end-of-life care for our residents and support of their loved ones," stated Frederic H. Kass III, M.D. "I am grateful to have been part of the beginning of this organization. The funds from the scholarship should assist those pursuing

careers in healthcare. In the past, there have been deserving recipients, and we hope to continue this tradition."

In 2020, three scholarships for \$2,000 will be awarded. Individuals who apply must be a resident of Washington County, Maryland, who is a graduating high school senior and is accepted to an accredited college majoring in a healthcare field with a minimum GPA of 3.0; or a resident of Washington County, Maryland, who is a current student at an accredited college majoring in a healthcare field with a minimum GPA of 3.0; or an employee of HWC, or an immediate family member of an HWC employee who is a current student or accepted to an accredited college majoring in a healthcare field, with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Applications for the scholarships must be completed by April 1, 2020, and the scholarships will be awarded June 5, 2020.

Individuals who are interested in applying for the scholarship can call HWC's Senior Director of Development and Public Relations, Karen Giffin, at 301-791-6360 or email kmgiffin@hospiceofwc.org. A scholarship brochure will be e-mailed to you with the guidelines. Applications that do not include all the required information will not be considered.

HOSPICE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY IS CELEBRATING

- 1980'S HIGHLIGHTS -

40
YEARS

1980

First meeting held to find out more about hospice.

MARCH - JUNE 1980

Bylaws were developed, first financial status was reported, incorporation application approved!

MAY 1981

21 of first volunteers trained.

JULY 1981

First patients admitted, 12 patients and families received care in the first year.

SEPT 1983

First Executive Director was

hired, Judy Wolf. 55 patients/families receive care this year.

1984

Dr. Kass appointed Medical Director.

OCTOBER 1985

Certificate of Need (CON) application filed.

1987

MD Legislature passed a law to license hospices formally as programs for terminally ill.

1989

HWC is licensed by the State of Maryland as a General Hospice! Medicare certified!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT - DR. PONICANO

A stroke of luck befell Hospice of Washington County (HWC) on an early fall day in September 2017. While our marketing team was enjoying the activities at the Hispanic Festival, a young doctor introduced himself to our team. We learned that Dr. Evan Ponciano was new to the Washington County area as an Internal Medicine practitioner with one of the Meritus practices in Robinwood. In addition, we learned that Dr. Ponciano has a heart for hospice and palliative care having served as director of hospices in Kansas. Thus began a relationship between Hospice of Washington County and Dr. Ponciano, affectionately known as “Dr. P” by our staff.



Dr. Evan Ponciano

After meeting with CEO, Ernesto Lopez, and with Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Baker, Dr. Ponciano joined the HWC team as part-time Associate Medical Director. He fills in as Medical Director for the guidance of the Gold Team as well as assists Dr. Baker with daily rounding visits to Doey’s House and serves as the on-call physician for patients and staff support on a rotating basis. Most recently, Dr. Ponciano has accepted the role of Medical Director of LifeCare of Washington County, the specialized consultant practice for those who are not terminally ill but are seeking relief for serious illness and chronic disease symptoms. When questioned why add hospice to his already full schedule, Dr. Ponciano responded,

“It seemed that at the end of the road a patient and I traveled, there had to be more to offer. Hospice is the window that connects me to the unpaved journey. At this juncture the philosophy and focus

changes and improving quality rather than quantity matters most. A mentor once told me ‘I lived well, I’m loved well, and I just want to die well.’ Being a physician doesn’t end when the diseases overwhelm, as I am still able to have a positive and deep effect on the life and dying process of my patients.”

Dr. Ponciano graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park with a B.S. degree from the departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry as well as Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics. He received his medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia; he completed his Internal Medicine residency at the Albert Einstein Medical Center, a multispecialty liver transplant and trauma center.

Accepting a position in Emporia, Kansas, Dr. Ponciano joined an Internal Medicine practice that provided healthcare to both inpatients and outpatients. While in Kansas, he also expanded his experience by becoming a director of hospice as well as the director of two skilled nursing facilities. All of these experiences – primary practice, hospice, and skilled nursing facilities – allow Dr. Ponciano to serve as an advisor as HWC seeks to serve our community better. His input challenges our team to think of additional ways to serve our patients as well as our referral sources. He brings to HWC the perspective of the primary care physician towards hospice and palliative care.

As a physician, Dr. Ponciano sees hospice as “Coming full circle. I see patients in the office and provide them with stability to their medical ailments; as they age, focus attention on improving quality of life as much as possible. Once they encompass the need for hospice, this becomes my last opportunity to contribute. Hospice extends my role with my patients and allows me a last opportunity to complete my role and responsibility with them. My last connection with a strong purpose.”

Besides providing support for hospice and palliative care, Dr. Ponciano is an internal medicine physician with Primary Care Associates in Hagerstown, Maryland. He lives in Poolesville, Maryland with his wife and three children. As a volunteer, Dr. Ponciano uses his skills to serve both national and international populations. He served as a mentor

Employee Spotlight Continued...

for upper level learning to Hispanic students in Kansas, provided free primary care to the underserved population of Philadelphia, provided international care at the Mexican consulate immunization clinic, and also immunization support at the Cambodian senior center.

We are honored to have Dr. Ponciano as part of our team and look forward to working with him to support our hospice team and to impact the growth and value of our LifeCare program in the communities we serve.

BEREAVEMENT

INTERNATIONAL SUICIDE AWARENESS DAY

Hospice of Washington County's (HWC) Bereavement Team was pleased to host an educational and healing workshop on Saturday, November 23, 2019 to honor the annual International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day. The International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day is held annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Each year, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) supports hundreds of Survivor Day events around the world, in which suicide loss survivors come together to find connection, understanding and hope through their shared experience. Moreover, the AFSP produces an annual documentary that offers a message of growth, resilience and connection.

The 2019 AFSP documentary was titled "Pathways to Healing: Hope after Suicide Loss." The 2019 workshop participants had the opportunity to view and discuss the themes of this documentary. Moreover, workshop participants participated in a guided meditation and reflection on self-compassion, healing art and writing activities, and a candle-lighting ceremony to commemorate their loved ones who died as a result of suicide.

This event was funded in part by a generous donation from the Max Niessner Suicide Prevention Fund housed at the Community Foundation of Washington County, Inc. HWC has collaborated with the family of Max Niessner since 2014. The Maxwell "Max" Niessner Suicide Prevention Fund was created by Jim and Pam Niessner in memory of their son to provide education and awareness for the prevention of suicide to help other families



Max Niessner

not endure such a loss. This year the fund provided lunch and a gift for the attendees of the HWC's workshop for the International Survivors of Suicide Loss.

"We are extremely grateful to the Neissner family for their donation from the fund for the workshop," stated Maria Reed, HWC Bereavement Counselor. "It is wonderful to see that they are doing great things in honor of their son, Max, and helping suicide loss survivors find hope and understanding."

The next International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day will be Saturday, November 21, 2020. Please visit afsp.org/find-support/ive-lost-someone/survivor-day/ for more information about resources for individuals who are coping with the loss of a loved one as a result of suicide.

The HWC bereavement team plans to facilitate a 6-week support group for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one by suicide in the Spring of 2020. Please visit hospiceofwc.org/events/calendar for details.

If you are coping with the loss of a loved one, our HWC bereavement team invites you to reach out to us for compassionate support. The bereavement team offers free grief education and support services to children, teens, and adults in our community.

2019 WRAP UP

2019 CELEBRATIONS EVENT

Hospice of Washington County (HWC) hosted the second annual **Celebrations - Celebrity Waiter Gala**. It was a large success raising \$100,000 in total. The Celebrations Event which was held at the Williamsport Banquet Hall was really 20 dinner parties occurring within the larger event. The over 180 guests were able to treat themselves to a tasty dinner and be entertained by the waiters vying for tips. The overall fundraising team was Joan Bowers and Jerred Brown.



Celebrity Waiter Gala

“We Owe Our Success to Our Celebrity Waiters”

“We owe our success to our celebrity waiters,” stated Cynthia Perini, Co-Chair Annual Celebrations Event. “They went above and beyond. Their costumes and themes were outstanding. And the creativity that they used to get tips was unimaginable.”

Along with the waiter entertainment was a silent auction. Celebrity Waiters included Samantha Bodnar and Mary Bowman, Joan Bowers and Jerred Brown, Dr. Norman Bradford, Kim Clark and Lynnette Potter, Kelli Deiterich, Doug Fiery and Mandy Fiery, Dr. Allen Ditto, Julie Donat, Carolyn Carder, and Jeremy Flinchbaugh, Jason and Melinda Malott, Will Matthews, Shelley McIntire and Scott Nicewarner, Addie Nardi, Nicole Houser and Kirk Livers, Bernadette Wagner and Tina Fraley, Monika Wertman, and VerStandig Media

Personalities. Committee members included Co-Chairs Cynthia Perini, Christy Turner; and Marjorie Hobbs.

Sponsors were Host Sponsors - RBC Wealth Management/The Hershey Fitsimmons Group and PNC Bank; Attendant Sponsors - Antietam Wealth Management, Drs. Norman and Pamela Bradford, Dr. and Mrs. Allen Ditto, Leiters' Fine Catering, Inc., Susan Wood and Steve Haines, and Meritus Health; Busboy Sponsors – Abeles Flurie Wealth Management, Middletown Valley Bank, Osborne Funeral Home P.A., Heartfelt Mortuary Transport, Frederick Seibert & Associates Inc., Smith Elliott Kearns and Company LLC, Briggs Associates Inc., WLR Automotive Group Inc., Wertman Photography, VerStandig Media, and Anything Printed.

Net proceeds from the event went to the HWC Endowment Fund which was established to assist the vital programs and services of HWC including Doey's House, and to ensure that HWC will be able to provide end-of-life care and grief support to our community for generations to come.

“We want to thank everyone who made this a big success,” stated Christy Turner, Co-Chair of the Event. “It is wonderful to work on such a fun event



Celebrity Waiter Gala

and to know how much the community members are behind the HWC mission.”

CRUISE IN CAR SHOW

The 6th Annual **C&O Canal Days Cruise In Car Show** was held in late summer at Milestown Farm, 10702 Hopewell Road in Williamsport. Over 100 cars participated and they raised \$5,000. The

show was presented by the Mason Dixon Region AACA and the Chair was Irv Gish. The event was held in memory of Jone Bowman.



Cruise in Car Show

DOEY'S HOUSE LIGHTS FOR LOVE

Hospice of Washington County (HWC) held the Second Annual Doey's House Lights For Love Event and Memory Walk on December 8, 2019. Over 300 loved ones were honored and remembered with luminaries placed around Doey's House. Attendees walked in their loved ones' honor or had a volunteer walk in their honor. The funds raised through this event will support Hospice of Washington County's Benevolence Program. The event was partially sponsored by Conservit Inc. and First Energy Foundation.



Doey's House Lights for Love

DOVETALES

Area children attended **HWC's Annual DoveTales Camp**, which is designed to gently teach coping skills and help build self-esteem and trust. It also offers a safe, comfortable environment for children

to express their grief. Through interactions with other children and adults, the children experience the universality of loss and learn that they are not alone in their grief. Bereavement



DoveTales

“The Children Enjoyed Pumpkin Painting, Craft Making and Therapeutic Horses”

Counselors and trained volunteers facilitated group activities that included sharing stories and creating crafts to honor their loved ones. Special seasonal recreational activities were built into this camp experience too! The children enjoyed pumpkin painting, a hayride, as well as a visit with therapeutic horses and other farm animals. New this year was a special family dinner to culminate the day.

DECEMBER EVENTS

December was a busy month at HWC and a number of community members stopped by to help:

Bruce Carson Jewelers generously donated proceeds of \$2,150 from their open house event weekend to HWC! R. Bruce Carson Jewelers is in the business of exceeding customer expectations, but they also exceed as a wonderful Washington

2019 WRAP UP CONTINUED

County community partner. Thank you to R. Bruce Carson Jewelers and their patrons!



Bruce Carson Jewelers

The members of **Sleepy Creek on the Potomac Campground** had their holiday party and collected donations for Hospice of Washington County. Kris and Cheryl Deal came into our Northern Ave. office to deliver the donation, on behalf of the campground members and owners, Cyndi and Dave Zembower.



Sleepy Creek on the Potomac

Hilda Norton donated \$5,000 to Hospice of Washington County's Doey's House. The donation is from the proceeds of a book Hilda wrote about Rex, her husband, and his journey. The book showcases his persistent joy in the face of adversity and her special care and steadfast faith which helped them to overcome fear and trust in the healing power of love. The book is entitled, "A Stroke of Love: Memories of Our Journey."



Hilda Norton

Many more individuals and organizations assisted HWC in 2019 and we appreciate everyone's past and future support.

Q1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING

Hearts of Hope: 1st & 3rd Monday of each month from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM: HWC Office Northern Avenue

Hearts of Hope: 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM: HWC Office Northern Avenue

JANUARY

Volunteer Winter Training: Jan. 28th from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Jan. 29th from 4:00-8:00 p.m.: We are looking for reliable, compassionate volunteers to help run errands for patients, be a companion, provide breaks for families and more! Call 301-791-6360 for more information.

FEBRUARY

Have a Heart for Hospice Radiothon: Saturday, February 15th @ 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: HWC, 747 Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD. Call in to make a pledge at 301-791-6927! Visit hospiceofwc.org for more information.

Bereavement Event: Children and Teen Grief Educational Workshop, Wednesday, Feb. 26th 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at 747 Northern Ave. This educational seminar is designed to provide insight into how grief affects children and adolescents. Call (301) 791 – 6360 to reserve your spot!

7th Annual
HAVE A HEART FOR HOSPICE



RADIOTHON

WJEJ 1240 AM

Listen to Lou Scally LIVE
at Hospice of Washington County on WJEJ
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Saturday, February 15, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Call in on February 15th to make a pledge! Dial 301-791-6927 or stop by the Hospice office with your donation! 747 Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD

All donations of \$250 or more will be entered to Win a Golden Ticket for Leitersburg Cinemas!

Special thanks to The Nook and Chick-Fil-A for
providing breakfast and lunch for our event volunteers.
For more information, visit www.hospiceofwc.org

*Prizes include: 1 dozen Krumpes
donuts each month for a year, Gordon's
Grocery, Grease Monkey and The
Hagerstown Auto Spa gift cards!*



PET PEACE OF MIND

Hospice of Washington County (HWC) is pleased to announce a new program aimed at helping hospice patients care for their pets. Pet Peace of Mind, which recognizes and actively supports the unique bond between hospice patients and their pets, launches Spring of this year and aligns with HWC's mission of embracing individual needs with love, kindness, and compassionate care while creating a meaningful end-of-life experiences for our patients and families.

Pet Peace of Mind allows patients to complete their end of life journey without worrying about their pet's current or future needs. The initiative provides volunteer pet care services for patients who are unable to care for their pets while in hospice. Services include assistance with pet food, financial assistance with routine veterinary care, transporting the pet to veterinary appointments, pet boarding and walking, and more.

Pet Peace of Mind, a national nonprofit headquartered in Salem, OR, offers the national program to hospices, hospitals and home health care agencies throughout the country.

"Pet Peace of Mind offers our organization the tools and training to help care for their patients'

four-legged family members," said Lindsay Anderson, Director of Volunteers for HWC. "We are extremely grateful to Central Dawgma & The Dawg Wash who helped to underwrite our registration for Pet Peace of Mind and helped to start the program."



Ms. Anderson went on to state that individuals can help support this effort by becoming a volunteer for the program or donating funds for supplies and other needs. For more information about the Pet Peace of Mind program or to make a donation online, visit hospiceofwc.org or call 301-791-6360.

WANTED: CARING HEARTS

ASK YOURSELF:

- Do you want to make a difference in your community?
- Have you been wondering how you might find fulfillment in life?
- Do you have a skill, talent or interest that might help someone else?
- Are you retired, an empty nester or just have some time to spare?
- Are you compassionate, caring, reliable and flexible?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please consider becoming a Hospice of Washington County Volunteer!

At Hospice of Washington County, volunteers are vital members of a team of professional caregivers providing support to people dealing with illness, grief and loss. These dedicated volunteers make sure that the patients and families they support find hope within each day, have their dignity preserved, and are surrounded by love even at the final moments of life. They give of themselves to make life better for others.

We invite you to join our team of dedicated and compassionate volunteers. Don't wait another minute to help make someone's last moments their best moments! Attend a volunteer training class, where you will learn everything you need to know to feel comfortable and confident as a volunteer. Training sessions are held every other month, and are a hybrid learning experience that combines online (or DVD) video modules and in-person activities.

For more information or to apply, please contact Lindsay Anderson, Volunteer Services Director, at 301-791-6360 or laanderson@hospiceofwc.org.

VOLUNTEERS ARE CURRENTLY NEEDED IN THESE AREAS:

Companion Volunteers: Visit patients to provide companionship, emotional support, caregiver relief, run errands, or assist with light housekeeping.

11TH Hour Volunteers: Provide a bedside vigil with patients during their final hours.

Bereavement Volunteers: Support families who have sustained the loss of a loved one by helping to make bereavement phone calls.

Veteran Volunteers: Visit with Veteran patients to provide companionship, emotional support and a listening ear, and/or to assist with honor salutes.

Haircut Volunteers: Licensed cosmetologists or barbers to cut and/or style patients' hair in their homes.

Massage Therapy Volunteers: Licensed massage therapists to provide massage therapy to patients in their homes.

Pet Therapy Volunteers: Visit patients with their pet to provide animal companionship to patients (must be evaluated by a national pet therapy organization).

Pet Piece of Mind Volunteers: Experienced pet care workers to provide pet care services for patients who are unable to care for their pets.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING: 2019 HWC GIVING SOCIETY MEMBERS

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Strategic Resolution Experts

SILVER OAK GIVING SOCIETY

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Keller Stonebraker Insurance, Inc.
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OUR GIVING SOCIETIES:

Magnolia - donors have given signature gifts of \$100,000 or more to the HWC Endowment Fund.

Silver Oak - donors who have made generous personal gifts to the endowment of \$10,000 or more.

Dogwood - a group of community-minded donors who have given gifts of \$100 or more.

Redwood - recognizes our committed business, corporate, and foundation donors that have given \$500 or more.

HWC Employee Giving Society - these are our dedicated employees that gave to our internal giving campaign with a gift of \$50 or more.



Hospice of Washington County, Inc.
747 Northern Ave.
Hagerstown, MD 21742
(301) 791-6360
www.hospiceofwc.org

SPONSOR A SCHOLARSHIP

Support higher education for health care professionals in the name of one of HWC's founders. The fund assists students in Washington County pursuing a career in the healthcare field.

Giving Levels: \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000 & \$2,000 for our Frederic H. Kass II M.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund

GIVING LEVELS

☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$2,000 **(Give \$2,000 and fund one full scholarship)**

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SIGNATURE OF DONOR(S)

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Please mail or drop off to:

Hospice of Washington County, 747 Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742
For Questions please call us at 301-791-6360