

MOMENTS MATTER

2021 WINTER UPDATE

MY FATHER'S STORY: ALFREDO JIMENEZ DANIELLO

Written by: Sierra Jimenez



Alfredo Jimenez

Alfredo Jimenez Daniello was born on March 3, 1954 in Argentina and moved back to Spain when he was 26. He moved to the United States in 1993. Alfredo was a passionate, strongwilled, loving man who wouldn't hurt a fly -- that is unless it dealt with his family.

Having a very unique family dynamic, Alfredo

and his wife divorced in the early 2000s, but remained best friends and even business partners. Their family continued to celebrate every holiday together and held a tight bond.

Most of his life Alfredo was a professional dancer, choreographer, and dance instructor. Alfredo's classes were not just dance instruction but also life lessons. He also worked at the Radio Shack and Tractor Supply warehouses in Hagerstown.

In February 2019, my father, Alfredo, was officially diagnosed with stage four esophageal cancer that had spread to his lungs, lymph nodes, and liver. He passed away in June of 2020. He was in the hospital with recurring pneumonia and bronchitis for at least two years prior to this so our family believed he was battling the disease much longer than he actually knew. He didn't use oxygen until a month before he passed. At his last appointment with the oncologist, I stood behind my father with tears in my eyes as his doctor said "You've fought the good fight, and now it's time to relax.". This was when he told us treatment was no longer an option. My family included myself, my brothers, my parents, and my stepfather.

Alfredo never considered his illness a weakness. When people would call him a "fighter" he would clap back and say he was a winner. He didn't speak much, but when he did, his words held value.

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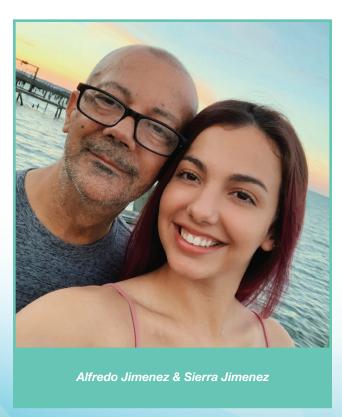
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Hospice continues to assist our family as we go through the bereavement counseling. As for the bereavement program, Maria, my bereavement counselor, is nothing short of amazing. I was nervous and unsettled at the thought of grief counseling prior to my first counseling session. But, she continues to help me process every emotion whether it is anger, sadness, numbness, etc. Through the grief counseling process, my feelings are validated. It has helped me to learn healthy ways to cope with my grief.

Hospice staff should always get the praise and appreciation they deserve. The Jimenez/Moreland family couldn't be more grateful for the welcoming arms **Hospice of Washington County** greeted us with.

Patient Story Continued...

Alfredo was always reluctant to ask for help from anyone, but hospice was able to come in and make him as comfortable as possible in his last stage of life. Amy, my dad's hospice nurse, was beyond helpful during my dad's final moments. She told us exactly what to expect without making us feel uncomfortable. Though we felt helpless, she made us feel relieved knowing she did everything she could to put his pain at ease as she prepared for what was to come.





Hearts of Hope Via Zoom

HWC is continuing to serve the community with Bereavement Services. Hearts of Hope is available via Zoom (an online video chat platform). Hearts of Hope is an ongoing, open support group available to any adult who has experienced a death of a loved one. Individuals can use Zoom on their computer, tablet, or phone. Participants can utilize the video and audio, or simply the audio feature. If you would like to participate or have questions, please contact Maria Reed at mdreed@hospiceofwc.org by 10am the day of.

01 MAY

Radiothon

WJEJ Radio 1240 AM and 104.3 FM and Lou Scally will be back at **Hospice of Washington County's (HWC)** office at 747 Northern Avenue for the 8th Annual "Have A Heart for Hospice" Radio-Thon, but not in February. The event will be held on Saturday, May 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The proceeds will support Doey's House. The number to call is 301-791-6927.



Dear Friends,

We here at **Hospice of Washington Count**y can't begin to show our appreciation enough for the support that our community has shown our organization before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. You have empowered us to continue to make a difference in the lives of our patients and families in our community.

During the pandemic, you have continued to show compassion for your neighbors with life-limiting illness and their loved ones. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure ensure that we can offer the best possible care for people who are dying. Please know that you have assisted us in making a meaningful difference in the quality of life of people at the end of their life.

Doey's House has continued to grow and develop and has become an important and valued benefit for our community. Hospice patients and their loved ones have been able to experience complete and continuous end of life care in a truly unique and special environment. The feedback from families and stories shared of their experiences, gives our team continued encouragement and professional fulfillment as well as a drive to continue to serve in our mission.

As we move into 2021, we are continuing this journey. Our staff continues to uphold and support

safety standards during the pandemic in order to keep our patients, staff and volunteers safe while providing the highest quality end-of-life care. Recently, we underwent our triannual accreditation survey by the Joint Commission. Accreditation for hospices is not mandatory, but it affords **HWC** the opportunity for an in-depth review of its patient safety and care delivery processes. Achieving accreditation demonstrates **HWC's** ongoing commitment to safeguard our patients and staff and to deliver the highest standard of care. 2021 also brings us continued focus for those that are in great need, with our widespread benevolence programs and the new Vet-to-Vet Program.

But we still have a lot of work to do, and we need your help. We need to continue to raise awareness of the benefits of early admission to hospice care for those who qualify. If we fail in educating our community and don't provide awareness of our services, our neighbors could die alone or in pain. Their families may not receive the bereavement care needed and other valuable services and support that are simply not top of mind during times of great duress. So, we ask each and every one of you to help us spread the message of the benefits of hospice. If you know anyone we would benefit and would like to be evaluated, please call us at 301-791-6360.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

PRISCILLA MOYER SENIOR PATIENT CARE MANAGER



In June of 2006, Priscilla Moyer joined the Hospice of Washington County (HWC) team as a Case Manager. During her 15 years with HWC, she has served in four different positions that led her to her current managerial role as Senior Patient Care Manager. Ms. Moyer

brings a vast background of nursing knowledge to her position. Prior to coming to **HWC**, Ms. Moyer worked in Syracuse, New York, and Erie, Pennsylvania, as a Labor and Delivery nurse. Later she moved to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, where she also spent time as a nurse in an Asthma Allergy and Immunology office as well as an OB/GYN office.

"What I find most rewarding is being able to help those patients who are at the end of their life and support their families," stated **HWC's** Senior Patient Care Manager, Priscilla Moyer. "In this current role I have the honor of supporting from behind the scenes. It really takes a team working together whatever their role is to provide the best care to our patients."

As a Senior Patient Care Manager, she provides support and mentorship to the other Patient Care Managers (PCM) to ensure we are providing quality patient care. Our PCMs oversee the entire interdisciplinary team for our patients: the nurses, social worker, chaplain, and aide. They do cost effective management of medications, supplies, equipment, and procedures to ensure efficient and quality end-of-life care for our patients.

Along with the clinical side of her role, Priscilla is assisting in the launch of our partnership with MemoryWell, a network of specially trained writers, to craft brief, intimate life stories that capture a person's legacy. She is also involved in our Veteran's Pinning Project and is working alongside Dr. Coleman for a home physician program.

"I am also grateful for the wonderful friendships I have made since working at hospice," concluded Priscilla Moyer.

WHAT IS HOSPICE CARE?

What is hospice? The question is simple, but the answer isn't. Hospice care is a special kind of care that focuses on the quality of life for people and their caregivers who are experiencing an advanced, life-limiting illness. Hospice care provides compassionate care for people in the last phases of incurable disease so that they may live as fully and comfortably as possible.

Below are some basic questions and answers about hospice care.

When is hospice utilized?

It can begin when the patient's physician gives a prognosis of six months or less.

Where is hospice provided?

Anywhere! It can be in a patient's private home, assisted living facilities, a skilled nursing facility, our in-patient unit Doey's House, or a hospital setting.

How is hospice paid?

Medicare, Medicaid, private pay, and most private insurances will cover hospice, but a patient is never turned away from inability to pay.

What's covered by hospice?

Nursing care, personal care, spiritual support, expert pain and symptom relief, related medications and medical equipment, grief and bereavement counseling, volunteer services, caregiver information, and 24/7 availability by phone.

What makes HWC different?

We're a non-profit certified by the Joint Commission—meaning we put the patient and their family first with the best quality services.

As always, **HWC** is available by phone at 301-791-6360 to answer any questions you may have about our services or to have your loved one evaluated. You can visit our website at hospiceofwc.org to read more about our care.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

Hospice of Washington County is in need of individuals to give of their time and talent in a number of ways.

Whether helping support patients, caregivers, and families directly, or by assisting the hospice staff with administrative work, there are always tasks in which the unique talents of each volunteer can be put to effective use. Volunteers can connect with patients on a deep, personal level, which provides the hospice care team with valuable insights concerning the overall impact of the level of comfort and care that is provided.

Medicare-certified hospice programs are also federally mandated to integrate hospice volunteers into administrative or patient services. It is a requirement that the total number of hours that hospice volunteers contribute must equal at least 5% of the total number of patient care hours provided by paid hospice employees and contract staff.

"Due to COVID, our volunteers are not able to provide direct companion care," stated Angela Dredden, Senior Manager of Volunteer and Donor Relations. "Therefore, volunteers have engaged with our patients in unique ways. Volunteers are writing notes and sending cards to patients; bereavement volunteers are assisting with calls to grieving families; and **HWC's** Vet- to-Vet

Committee will begin virtual Pinning Ceremonies to recognize the service of our patients who have courageously served our country."

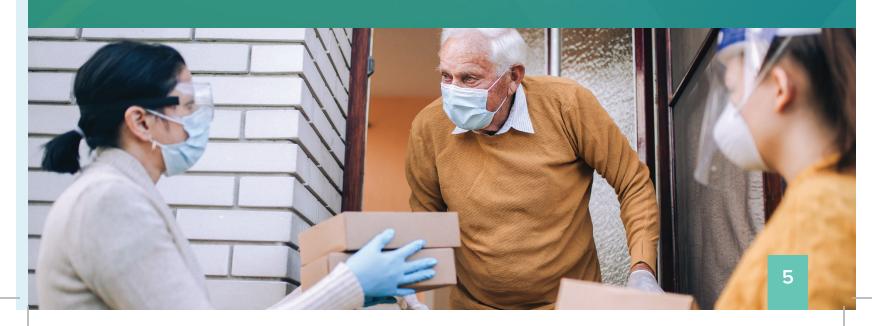


Rachel Turner Volunteer Coordinator

Recently, Rachel Turner has been hired as **HWC's** Volunteer Coordinator. Ms. Turner is a native of Hagerstown and is a graduate of South Hagerstown High School and West Virginia University. She has worked in the marketing and volunteer field since graduating college. "Working with individuals who share the common goal of improving the care of life for another

human being is something that you cannot put a price on, especially during these uncertain times," stated Ms. Turner. "There is a lot to be said about those who reflect compassion, selflessness, and determination, and it is an honor to see everyone come together and work hard to achieve great things. It is a true happiness to help others."

Individuals interested in becoming a volunteer or would like an application should call 301-791-6360 or email volunteer@hospiceofwc.org.





PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS 2020

Hospice of Washington County's Board Member Brent Feight was recently awarded The Community Foundation of Washington County MD, Inc.'s People Choice Award during their Annual Dinner, held virtually on Zoom. The prestigious Volunteer Award honors individuals from the community who give generously of their time and talents to make Washington County a better place to live. HWC nominated Brent because of his tremendous support during the construction of Doey's House, the only inpatient hospice facility in Washington County, and for many other HWC projects.

"The contributions to Washington County made by Brent Feight seem endless," stated Karen Giffin, **HWC**'s Vice President of Mission Advancement. "Along with the support of Doey's House and other **HWC** projects, Brent supported the Mason-Dixon Scout Council, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Boys & Girls Club of Washington County and Brooke's House. Countless others cite Feight's support through his pro-bono work often supported by his beloved colleagues at Hagerstown-based firm Bushey Feight Morin (BFM) Architects."

The Community Foundation establishes a \$5,000 endowment fund in each winner's name for the local nonprofit of their choice. Brent has established this fund which is titled the BFM **Architects Hospice of Washington County** Benevolence Fund. This fund helps HWC's patients outside of the scope of the traditional hospice benefit. "Often Hospice of Washington County's nurses, nursing assistants, chaplains, social workers, and volunteers visit our new patients and find that they have insufficient food, inadequate heating or cooling sources, gas to go to doctor's appointments, and much more. If **HWC** can help patients and their families with their immediate needs, it will allow the patients to focus on living their life to the fullest and allow our staff to focus on their care. The fund also helps our patient's families who need assistance with funeral expenses so that they can have a dignified burial," explained Ms. Giffin.

"This nomination by **Hospice of Washington County** and the award is a great honor and will be cherished," stated People's Choice Award Winner, Brent Feight. "However, the importance of this award should serve notice to all members of our community to give what they can in order to make our community better and stronger for everyone. No gift is too small when it serves to benefit Washington County as a whole."

The two other People's Choice Award winners were Jamie Blackwood and Carrol Lourie.

The Community Foundation of Washington County also named a Rising Star Award recipient. The award honors an individual from the community who demonstrates a commitment to volunteer service. This year's Rising Star Award winner was HWC's Bereavement Intern Stephanie Nalley. Stephanie is the founder of the nonprofit Hope Through Birth. Since 2012, this organization has focused on supporting parents who have experienced the loss of a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant death. She maintains a Bereavement Education Fund to provide training for local birth workers to receive bereavement training. She's spent numerous years volunteering with unimaginably difficult work with Hospice of Washington County; and assists in bereavement counseling with Dove Tale's camp a camp where children can navigate the loss of a

"We congratulate all the winners, and **HWC** is very proud to have nominated Brent," concluded Ms. Giffin.

A full recording of the 21st Annual People's Choice Awards can be found on the Community Foundation of Washington County MD., Inc.'s homepage www.cfwcmd.org

BEREAVEMENT

BEREAVEMENT CARE CONTINUES DURING COVID-19

The events in the year 2020 prompted many changes, challenges, losses, as well as opportunities for growth. The **Hospice of Washington County** Bereavement Care team continues to offer grief and bereavement support to our community in a number of ways. Maria Reed, Bereavement Counselor, reflected "although we must be mindful of being physically distant to promote safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, we invite people to be socially connected and supported by phone or by video."

Hearts of Hope, an on-going adult grief support group, transitioned to be completely virtual in Spring 2020. The Hearts of Hope group is available to any adult who is grieving the death of a loved one. Group sessions are held a total of four times a month, led by a **Hospice of Washington County** Bereavement Counselor. Group sessions are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 10:30 AM – Noon, as well as 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM.

All Hearts of Hope group sessions are facilitated via Zoom, and participants are invited to either call or connect by video. Melanie Green, Bereavement Counselor, explained that an interested group participant simply needs to provide an email address to get started. The Bereavement Counselors send an email a few days prior to each designated Hearts of Hope Group meeting with a unique and secure Zoom meeting link. If you have any technical difficulties, a Bereavement Counselor

can offer assistance and guidance in utilizing Zoom.

Current Hearts of Hope support group participants wish to offer reassurance to anyone who is interested in joining the group. One group member recently commented "It's ok if you are a little anxious at first, but this is a safe place to express yourself and share your story." Although the Hearts of Hope group is held virtually, group members continue to find hope, healing, and genuine support. Group members offer kindness, as well as compassionate and non-judgmental listening and guidance during the grief journey. It reminds us that we are not alone. We invite you to consider joining our Hearts of Hope support group to meet and connect with others who truly understand the unique challenges and victories in grief.

If you are interested in joining the Hearts of Hope Group in 2021, please call the main Hospice of Washington County phone number at 301-791-6360. A Bereavement Counselor will follow up with you to provide information and collect your email address for the distribution list for future group Zoom sessions.

Hospice of Washington County continues to offer grief education and bereavement care support services to hospice families, as well as our community. All Bereavement Care support services continue to be offered at NO COST. Bereavement Counselors work with children, teens, and adults.





From October 16 to November 20, 2020, twelve local celebrities raised over \$25,000 by hosting a number of fun events and fundraisers during the second Celebrity Challenge Event. Celebrities included Mary Ellen Waltemire of One Step Closer Coaching and Tom Riford; Shellie Ralston of the Rhubarb House; Julie Donat of PNC Bank, Carolyn Carder of Meritus Health and Jeremy Flinchbaugh; Kelli Deiterich of Middletown Valley Bank; Ryan Smetzer; Tina Fraley from FitMinded Living & Tammy Shindle of Bella Salon and Spa and Kandace Carpenter & Tiffany Gardner.

According to Event Co-Chair Christy Turner, "It was amazing that we had individuals who agreed

to serve as celebrities and gave of their talent to raise funds for **Hospice of Washington County's** Celebrity Challenge. Their creativity and hard-work could not be matched."

"At the beginning of the year, we were set to have our Third Annual Celebrity Waiter contest," stated Karen Giffin, Associate Vice President of Mission Advancement. "However, COVID-19 happened, and the fundraiser had to take on a new twist. Event Co-chairs Christy Turner and Cynthia Perini became creative and changed the event so celebrities could raise funds virtually or by hosting events that followed the social distance protocol so everyone could stay safe. In the end, we were

able to raise funds for the Doey's House Ventilator Project. We would like to thank the celebrities, volunteers and sponsors for helping during this challenging time."

Kellie Dieterich of Middletown Valley Bank took home the Silver Platter Winner. Julie Donat of PNC Bank, Carolyn Carder of Meritus Health and Jeremy Flinchbaugh took home second place, and Mary Ellen Waltemire of One Step Closer Coaching and Tom Riford won third.

Sponsors of the event included Garcon Level Sponsors - Middletown Valley Bank and Verstanding Media Group (104.7 WAYZ, 92.1 The Goat, 101.5 BOB Rocks!); Host Level Sponsor - RBC Wealth Management - The Hershey Group; Attendant Level Sponsors - Abeles Flurie Wealth Management, Meritus Health, PNC Bank; and Bus Boy Level Sponsors - Don & Mary Bowman, Jason & Melinda Malott, Jim & Georgia Pierne, Tom & Angie Riford, and SEK CPA's & Advisors.



BEREAVEMENT

LIGHTS FOR LOVE RECAP

The Third Annual Doey's House Lights for Love Event and Memorial Drive was held on December 6, 2020. Due to COVID-19, Hospice of Washington County (HWC) created a unique way to hold this special event, to ensure safety for all. With all the changes, our community helped to raise over \$6,000 for HWC. The funds raised through this event support Hospice of Washington County's Benevolence Program.

"It was important to continue this vital event which helps families to remember their loved ones while raising funds for others in need," stated Karen Giffin, Associate Vice President of Mission Advancement. "Rather than a memorial walk, a memorial drive was held beginning at our main office on Northern Avenue to Doey's House. Many thanks to the Hagerstown Auxiliary Police who led the drive, to Prophets of the Abstract Truth

who provided pre-recorded peaceful music for the attendees, and to our wonderful volunteers and sponsors."

Over 130 names were honored and remembered. Luminaries were placed at Doey's House by a number of volunteers. Attendees were given signs to write their loved ones name on for the drive, and then were able to take the sign home to place in their yards. Instead of a formal in-person reading of the names, the reading of names was done virtually on video. One can find the reading of the names at hospiceofwc.org/news/lights-love-reading-names.

The event was sponsored by First Energy Foundation and Middletown Valley Bank. For more information on remembering your loved ones through the year, visit hospiceofwc.org/ways-remember-your-loved-ones.

VIRTUAL!

Due to COVID-19 and considerations for the safety of our children and community, DoveTales 2020 was an interactive virtual experience instead of a face-to-face traditional camp. **Hospice of Washington County** partnered with **BEACON House Inc.** to create a weekly grief education and support program for children and families. All of the children who registered for the program received a special care package including a DoveTales t-shirt, canvas bag, workbook, comfort blanket, and all of the arts and crafts materials needed to complete the weekly activities.

DoveTales 2020 officially kicked off on Friday, October 30, 2020 with a fun "Drive Thru" style event. Then all of the campers and volunteers were invited to engage in a 6-week interactive program. Participants were provided access to a special online course uniquely designed by the HWC bereavement counselors, then invited to join a weekly group session via Zoom. DoveTales 2020 included a comprehensive curriculum with weekly themes, art activities, writing activities, and family movies about grief education. Campers were invited to engage in meaningful activities and discussions to acknowledge their grief. They shared creative expressions and unique stories about their special loved one who died. Maria Reed, Bereavement Counselor, reflected that, "It was incredible to witness the magic of DoveTales camp, even in a virtual setting. Children were excited to share and meet others who shared the common experience of the death of a special loved one. The virtual format offered families flexibility and support in their own homes."

DoveTales 2020 hosted a total of 30 children from 17 different families from Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and South Carolina. During the DoveTales program, one parent said "I just wanted to take a minute to tell you how much

(my daughter) has been enjoying DoveTales. She keeps track of the day and time. It seems like she's counting down to and looking forward to it. She tells me all about it even though I'm right there in the room, preparing dinner while she's on the call. Thank you so much for all your hard work to make this happen. I am hoping that it helps her to be more at peace with all she is feeling, but I know that you and the program have brightened up her fall."

Parents and guardians also offered their feedback about their children's experience following the conclusion of the program in December 2020:

"I feel like she really enjoyed having people to talk to who had also lost someone. I think that she felt isolated in her grief and she really enjoyed hearing from other people about what they were experiencing so that she didn't feel so alone. I've been really grateful that she was able to participate, as she has looked forward to each session, counting down the days and hours."

"My children greatly enjoyed our experience with DoveTales. It was their favorite part of every week. It allowed my children to be sad that their Great-Grandfather passed away, but also helped them to remember all the fun and special times they had with him."

"He developed a great relationship with kids and counselors...His teacher said that his behavior and coping skills have shown great improvement recently. I am so happy that he participated in DoveTales."

DoveTales is a grief support program designed for children ages 6 – 14 who have experienced the death of a loved one. The experience offers children the opportunity to share their unique "tale" and connect with others who "get it." This program continues to be offered at NO cost to families because of grant funding from the Community Foundation of Washington County MD, Inc, as well as private donors. To learn more about the mission and programs with BEACON House Inc at: thebeaconhouseinc.org/.



KASS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

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

Applications for the 2021 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 has cared for our community for over 40 years.



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 very proud that the funds from the scholarship assist those pursuing careers in healthcare. During this unprecedented time, we see how vital healthcare education and providers are in our community. In the past, there have been deserving recipients, and we hope to continue this tradition."

In 2021, 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 or 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, 2021.



Individuals who are interested in applying for the scholarship can call **HWC's** Associate Vice President of Mission Advancement 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, Inc. 747 Northern Ave.
Hagerstown, MD 21742
(301) 791-6360
www.hospiceofwc.org

SPONSOD A SCHOLADSHIP

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 (C	Give \$2,000 and fund one full scholarship)
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NAME OF BUSINESS (IF APPLICABLE)	BUSINESS PHONE
ADDRESS (INCLUDE CITY, STATE & ZIP)	EMAIL
Billing address (if different from above)	
ADDRESS	
NAME ON CARD	CREDIT CARD #
SIGNATURE OF DONOR(S)	EXPIRATION DATE SECURITY CODE

Please mail to:

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