



The Messenger

A publication of Hospice of the Rock River Valley

30 Years of Providing Hospice Services to the Community
"1982-2012"

www.hospicerockriver.org

Winter 2011/2012

Hospice of the Rock River Valley Honors Veterans

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veteran's Affairs has launched "We Honor Veterans" program. This is a pioneering campaign to help improve the care veterans receive from hospice and palliative care providers.

Hospice of the Rock River Valley has joined this partnership to provide end of life care to our veterans and educate ourselves on the unique health care needs of veterans.

It is a revelation to many to learn that 25 percent of all deaths in the United States are veterans. That equates to 1,800 people a day; more than 680,000 veterans every year. These courageous Americans deserve recognition for their military service, - particularly at the end of life's journey.

On our most recent Veterans' day in November of 2011, Hospice of the Rock River Valley ascertained that one-third (1/3) of our current patients were veterans or their spouses were veterans. We provided a small token of appreciation and recognition to our veteran patients and fami-

lies and it was received with touching gratitude.

Not only do we feel honored and privileged to be caring for America's heroes, our partnership allows us to raise awareness among our team and to ensure we are providing the care our veterans' expect, need and deserve at end of life.



WE HONOR VETERANS

The resources of "We Honor Veterans" focus on respectful inquiry, compassionate listening, and grateful acknowledgment, coupled with Veteran-centric education of staff caring for Veterans. Additionally, there may be specific needs related to the Veteran's military service, combat experience or traumatic event, and this program provides tools to help support the caregivers as well.

Hospice of the Rock River Valley is honored to continue our tradition of excellent care to our community and enhance our knowledge of the unique needs of veterans.

To learn more about We Honor Veterans please visit www.wehonorveterans.org.

Hospice provides what Americans want at the End of Life

The hospice philosophy holds that end-of-life care should emphasize quality of life. A nationwide Gallup survey conducted for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization produced five key outcomes:

1. Nine out of 10 adults would prefer to be cared for at home rather than in a hospital or nursing home if diagnosed with a terminal illness. Hospice does provide the option of being cared for at a place the patient calls home: 96% of hospice care is provided in the patient's home or place they call home.
2. An overwhelming majority of adults said they would be interested in the comprehensive program of care at home that hospice programs provide. Yet most Americans know little or nothing about their eligibility for or availability of hospice.
3. When asked to name their greatest fear associated with death, respondents most cited

"being a burden to family and friends," followed by "pain" and "lack of control." Addressing the whole range of physical and psychological needs of the patient and his or her family in an interdisciplinary way is what makes hospice care so special.

4. 90% of adults believe it is the family's responsibility to care for the dying. Hospice provides families with the support needed to keep their loved one at home, and can take over fully to give the caretaker short "respite" periods.

5. Most adults believe it would take a year or more to adjust to the death of a loved one. However, only 10% of adults have ever participated in a bereavement program or grief counseling following the death of a loved one.

6. Hospice programs offer one year of grief counseling for the surviving family and friends.

HRRV will be celebrating a 30th Anniversary in June of 2012. Watch for more details and information as the year progresses.

Mission

Hospice of the Rock River Valley affirms life by providing exceptional care and support to those transitioning through serious illness, death and grief.

Festival of Trees 2011 Visions



Festival of Trees Thank You

Over twenty years ago, a group of community members joined forces to create the first Festival of Trees benefiting hospice services in the Sauk Valley area. Now, over twenty years later the Festival of Trees continues as a tradition encompassing the entire Sauk Valley area.

We are blessed to live and work in generous communities where the idea of investing in our resources is a priority for all. The Festival of Trees would not be possible without the contributions given by these communities. Hospice of the Rock River Valley says thank you to all businesses, organizations, volunteers, decorators, chairpersons, sponsors, donors and the general public for the generous amount of time, talent, and financial support given to the Festival of Trees. We realize your resources are limited and precious and we truly appreciate your expressions of support in an effort to help us continue helping others.



We want to especially thank our chairpersons for the 22nd Festival of Trees: **Pat McLeod, Janna Groharing, Chris Byar, Roberta Dillon, Kristie Geil, Barb Young, Yolanda Moreno, Patti Sword, Anne Kenney, Susan Boyd, Kim Ewoldsen, Rita Wolf, and Christy Zepezauer.**



The proceeds from the Festival of Trees assist Hospice of the Rock River Valley in providing care and support to the terminally ill and their families. The professional staff and team of volunteers have offered expert and compassionate care for 30 years to those during a most vulnerable time. Although Hospice services are reimbursable by Medicare, Medicaid and insurance, the reimbursement does not begin to cover the actual costs of providing our services. This is why Hospice of the Rock River Valley relies heavily on community support to maintain our commitment of not passing on costs to our patients or their families.

On behalf of the staff, board of directors, volunteers, and patients of families of Hospice of the Rock River Valley, please accept our sincere and heartfelt thank you. Know that through your generosity, you have helped to provide hope and compassionate care to your fellow community members.

Karen Voss & Carolyn Spencer

New for 2012

Grief Support Group

offered by Hospice of the Rock River Valley

Meets the
Second & Fourth Tuesday
*Beginning January 24, 2012
of each month

6:30-8 p.m.

at

CGH Medical Center Classroom 1
100 E. LeFevre, Sterling

The group is free of charge and open to anyone.
Call 815-288-3673 for more information.



"The future depends on what we do in the present."

- mahatma ghandi -

Speakers Bureau

Education is essential to understanding hospice philosophy and end-of-life decisions. Staff members and specially trained volunteers are available to speak to your group about a variety of topics. We customize our presentation to fit your needs and welcome opportunities to share information about Hospice, bereavement and end-of-life care. To schedule a speaker, call (815) 288-3673 or email market@hospicerockriver.org.

Angel on our Shoulders

Hospice of the Rock River Valley depends on community generosity for many things. Each newsletter we post a wish list of items that are needed for patient care, bereavement services, operational support, and special events.

Listed below are items we are looking for. Please call the hospice office before donating to check on the status of items needed. Call (815) 288-3673.

Office Supplies
(pens, post-it notes, etc.)

Laundry Soap (liquid)
& Bleach

New White Twin Size Flat
Sheets

Puzzle Books - Crossword /
Word Search

Boxes of Tissues
Mailing Labels
(1 x 2 5/8)
(2 x 4)

Musical CDs -
Inspirational/Easy Listening



Volunteers August 1-December 31, 2011

Sue Abate	Maynard Hermes	Jay Pauley
Pat Aldrich	Carolyn Heuck	Gloria Peska
Wes Anderson	Carol Humphreys	Kim Ptak
Lorna Anello	Darlene Jacobs	Meta Rastede
Millie Baird	Teri Jahn	Ann Rodekamp
Bryan Banziger	Patsy Kay	Liz Rude
Don Bielema	Anne Kenney	Denise Schneiderbauer
Cathy Binder	Kim Kilday	Deb Schrader
Nancy Book	Chris King	Eileen Sedig
Susan Boyd	Kaye King	Loretta Shilling
Chris Byar	Jim King	Louise Skoglund
Jon Byar	Elinore Kugler	Jean Smetana
Eva Carbaugh	Beth Lancaster	Gloria Sproul
Lora Clapper	Sue Lee	Laura Steffes
Larry Cooper	Jordan Lumbard	Sue Stull
Vicki Cooper	Adrian McCormick	Patti Sword
Deb Cushman	Maureen McCormick	Kinzie Vogel
Angie Delhotel	Jean McCue	Melissa Vogel
Jan Devine	Terry McGuire	Al Wangerin
Sherry DeWalt	Cindy McKinley	Zita Westbrook
Robertta Dillon	Lenore McKinzie	Julie Woessner
Deb Donnelly	Pat McLeod	Danielle Wolf
Karen Dunsworth	Mike McLeod	Barb Young
Regina Egan	Liz Moreno	Rob Young
Kim Ewoldsen	Yolie Moreno	Kay Young
Kristie Geil	Melody Munson	Christy Zepezauer
Connie Gemeny	Audry Nesbitt	Jim Grot Studio
Judy Gordon	Sue Nestor	Sauk Valley
Janna Groharing	Patti Nice	Container
Ken Harrington	Charla Olson	Shippert's Moving
Dawn Hartman	Vicki Olson	& Storage
Ted Hegner	Haley Osborn	Twin Cities Sunrise
Bob Heinze	Linda Osborn	Rotary
	Marianne Paris	

Volunteers Are the Heart of Hospice

Can You ...

- Read a book?
- Write a letter?
- Sit and hold someone's hand?
- Listen?
- Just be there?



Then you could be a Hospice Volunteer.

Hospice of the Rock River Valley has a need for volunteers to work with patients and families.

Spring Volunteer Training begins

Tuesday, March 13

at

Hospice of the Rock River Valley

Route 2 between Dixon and Sterling

To make a difference in someone's life, call Judy at

815-288-3673

Serving families in Lee, Whiteside, Ogle, Carroll & Bureau Counties

www.hospicerockriver.org

2011 Fall Volunteer Graduates



The Fall 2011 Volunteer Training concluded and graduated four new volunteers for Hospice of the Rock River Valley. Those completing the session were (l to r) Elinore Kugler, Ted Hegner, Beth Lancaster and Patricia Spratt. We welcome our new volunteers to hospice and look forward to working with them as we care for patients in the Sauk Valley area.

Thank you to all supporters of HRRV. Your donations in memory of loved ones ensures quality compassionate care is available to those in need. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our listing accurate. Please call (815) 288-3673 or email market@hospicerockriver.org with any additions or corrections.

In Memory of

Lowell Batten

- Mary Anne Batten
- Julie Batten
- Terry & Rita Bishop
- Larry & Shirley Bollman
- Robert & Geraldine Cassens
- Otto & Mary Dobbeke
- Peter & Susan Harkness
- Harlan & Helen Hartman
- Melvin & Kathryn Johnson
- Sammy & Cheryl Johnson
- Ronald & Linda Kuepker
- James & Karen Nuelle
- Peggy Rosenow Grebinski
- Joyce Sandrock
- Roger & Diane Schmeling
- Cindy Schott
- Bette Sherman
- Daniel & Bonnie Thompson
- Ruth Thompson
- Curtis Varney
- Michael & Paula Wares
- Rod & Nancy Weber

- Geraldine Wike
- New Life Fitness World
- Tampico Library
- Village of Tampico

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- William Wulf

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- Anne Brouillette
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- Roberta Dillon
- Kevin & Deann Garber
- Michael & Alison Guerrero
- Marilyn Mitchell
- Dr. R.R. Nowak
- Wynn & Darcy Ullman
- Larry & Adona

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- Reagan School Faculty

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 Teri Roberts
 Shelby & Lois Rowzee
 Lee Schrader
 Arvilla Siddens
 Millie Smith
 Phil Smith
 June Soderquist
 Edna Spencer
 Jean Stillman
 Muriel Wagenecht

Darlene Waldschmidt
 Charles & Toni Wallin
 Lynda Warren
 Nancy Weidel

Karla Harper

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 Jake Anderson
 Barbara Anderson
 Jacob Anderson
 Kelly Anderson Walker
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Bernice Janssen

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 Bernice Janssen

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Frances Kinney

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Add it: Someone I know should get this - name & address or email is attached.

Fix it: Correct the information on my mailing label as indicated.

Delete it: Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Calendar of Events 2012

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month

Evening Grief Support Group
6:30-8 p.m., meeting in Classroom 1
at CGH Medical Center

March 13

Spring Volunteer Training Begins

June TBD

HRRV Golf Outing

Nov. 10

HRRV Festival of Trees Gala Evening
Deer Valley Country Club

Nov. 13-18

23rd HRRV Festival of Trees

All events are at HRRV unless otherwise noted. Look for more details regarding future events in newsletters, special mailings and local media. Questions? Please call (815) 288-3673 or email market@hospicerockriver.org. Also visit www.hospicerockriver.org and our Facebook page.

By your side, our family caring for your family.



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Rock River Valley**

**To begin receiving this newsletter electronically,
send an email to market@hospicerockriver.org.**

Hospice of the Rock River Valley

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