

HospiceCare news

HERE FOR YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE



For hospice patient John Snyder, painting has become a way of life that gives his world meaning and keeps him going each day. **Read more on page 2**

Comfort. Dignity. Peace.

2024



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Motorcycle Ride**

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**Coping with
grief through
the holidays**

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HospiceCare locations and contact information



HospiceCare Main Office

1606 Kanawha Blvd., W
Charleston, WV 25387-2536
(304) 768-8523 / (800) 560-8523
Fax: (304) 768-8627



Hubbard Hospice House

1001 Curtis Price Way
Charleston, WV 25311
(304) 926-2200
Fax: (304) 926-2238



Hubbard Hospice House West

4605 MacCorkle Ave., SW
S. Charleston, WV 25309
(304) 414-5170
Fax: (304) 414-0890



HospiceCare at CAMC Memorial

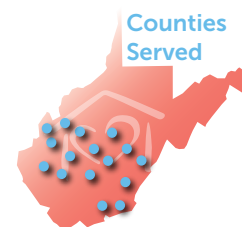
3200 MacCorkle Ave., SE
Charleston, WV 25304
(304) 836-3839
Fax: (304) 968-6290



Greenbrier Valley Office & Peyton Hospice House

1265 Maplewood Avenue
Lewisburg, WV 24901
(304) 645-2700 / (800) 237-0842
Fax: (304) 645-3188

Please visit us online at:
www.hospicecarewv.org



Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette,
Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha,
Lincoln, Mason, Monroe, Nicholas,
Pocahontas, Putnam, Roane,
Summers & Webster

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HospiceCare by the numbers

* through September 1, 2024

Annual Hospice Admissions

2020: 2,417
2021: 2,789
2022: 2,748
2023: 2,695
2024: 1,748*

Hospice Average Daily Census

Total, in-home/in-patient programs
2020: 355, 331/24
2021: 391, 367/24
2022: 347, 326/21
2023: 325, 303/22
2024: 332, 310/21*

Average/Median Length of Stay

2022: 64/11
2023: 49/9
2024: 59/11 *

Annual Palliative Admissions

2020: 559
2021: 1,022
2022: 1,013
2023: 913
2024: 548*

Palliative Average Daily Census

2020:384
2021:382
2022:402
2023:428
2024:398*

Hospice Admissions by County

County	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Boone	96	108	67	52	50
Braxton	10	7	11	15	4
Clay	53	53	48	61	31
Fayette	53	62	30	28	18
Greenbrier	190	224	242	236	155
Jackson	119	154	123	142	106
Kanawha	1,272	1,431	1,693	1,678	1,071
Lincoln	33	36	21	12	13
Mason	5	11	5	7	2
Monroe	61	67	54	48	26
Nicholas	98	103	93	75	44
Pocahontas	5	18	4	2	1
Putnam	309	358	280	250	177
Roane	38	50	47	53	29
Summers	5	20	7	8	3
Webster	20	26	20	27	17
Other	50	61	3	1	1
TOTAL	2,417	2,789	2,748	2,695	1,748*



Your contributions make a tremendous difference.

Dear Friends of HospiceCare,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with deep gratitude and immense pride for the remarkable progress our team at HospiceCare has made in providing high-quality, compassionate care to our community. This year has truly been transformative, not only due to the dedication of our staff but also because of the incredible outpouring of support from generous individuals like you.

Your contributions through fundraisers and events have made a tremendous difference, and I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your steadfast support. Your commitment allows us to continue our mission, and it is because of your involvement that we've been able to launch and see our new service line, Home Health of West Virginia, flourish as the region's only CHAP accredited home health provider. Though we announced its opening last year, I am thrilled to share that we welcomed our first patients this year and are now providing the same compassionate, high-quality care HospiceCare is known for to home health patients in Kanawha and Putnam counties. Should you, your friends or family need home health services, we'd be honored if you would ask for Home Health of West Virginia!

Throughout this newsletter, you will be introduced to some of our outstanding staff members who are driving our organization forward. You'll also get a glimpse into the joy and energy that permeate our annual fundraisers, which stand as powerful reminders of our community's generous spirit. From the CTC Tennis Tournament to

the Annual Keith Stonestreet Golf Outing to Benefit HospiceCare, each event showcases our community's unwavering love for hospice care and their desire to support local families in need.

We are especially thankful to DT Prime this year for stepping up to host our annual fundraising dinner after the unexpected closing of Tidewater Grill. Their generosity, along with the kindness of our many supporters, helps ensure that we can continue to make a profound impact.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the unwavering dedication of our incredible staff and volunteers. Their commitment to our mission is truly inspiring, and it's their hard work that makes all the difference in the lives of our patients and their families. Throughout this newsletter, you will

see them shine while doing what they do best – providing the best possible care to our community.

Thank you once again for your continued support of HospiceCare. Together, we are changing lives, strengthening our community, and making a lasting difference for those we serve. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and know that none of this would be possible without you!

Chris Rawlings

Very best regards,

Christopher Rawlings
HospiceCare CEO

"The unwavering dedication of our incredible staff and volunteers and their commitment to our mission is truly inspiring."



Chili cook-off puts the spice in hospice

Each year our friends with the Wagging Tails & Nitro Ales Craft Beerfest and Chili Cookoff - Smoke on the Water Edition welcome hundreds of visitors and their pooches to enjoy some of the region's best chili at the Living Memorial Park in downtown Nitro to benefit HospiceCare!

Dozens of red, green and homestyle chili cooks compete each year in this regional cook-off, sanctioned by the International Chili Society, with winners qualifying for the annual World Championship Chili Cook-off each September in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

In addition to their competition chili, which is judged by a panel of experts, cooks vie for local bragging rights with their People's Choice chili, which is voted on by the public. For every dollar people donate to HospiceCare, they receive two chili sample tickets and a Milk-Bone dog biscuit to vote for their favorite chili.

Last year, Volunteer Coordinator Donna Briggs and her amazing volunteers – Ellen Briggs, Kim and Marilyn Walbe, Naydeen Wolf, Sydney Whittington, Eric Richmond, Heloise Swanepoel and Betty Adkins – helped raise \$2,100 to benefit HospiceCare by selling chili samples.

The Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association and Putnam County Animal Shelter were on hand with adoptable animals and the Itty Bitty Kitty Committee had foster cats ready for their new homes. Afterwards, HospiceCare donated 18 boxes of Milk-Bone dog biscuits from the event to the Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association.

Special thanks to event organizers Joe Stevens and Jennifer Piercy and their volunteers for making the event such a success each year! This year's event took place Saturday, November 2, after this newsletter went to print.

Chili Cook-off volunteer team of Debbie Derenburger, Linda Hedding, Coordinator Donna, Ellen Briggs, Debra Graham and Sydney Johnson



DT Prime steps up for a sell-out annual dinner



With the sudden closing of Tidewater Grill at the Charleston Town Center in April, we found our annual dinner, a beloved tradition for many, in jeopardy.

Thankfully, DT Prime owners Dave Andrews and Todd Moore, Chef Jeremy Sprouse and their staff came to our rescue and graciously stepped up to host the evening of fine dining, spirits and fun in August to benefit our patients

and their families, and honor all the programs and services we provide.

The community's response to this transition was overwhelmingly positive, with all seats selling out just two weeks after the dinner was announced. The funds raised at the dinner – nearly \$9,500 - will directly support HospiceCare's mission to offer compassionate care and affirm life through hospice, palliative and other supportive care services to the patients, families and communities served throughout West Virginia

We look forward to bringing the dinner back to DT Prime next year and keeping the tradition growing for years to come!

HospiceCare Board of Directors

Officers

J. Ryan Lindsay, President
H. Dill Battle, Vice President
Twana Smith, Treasurer
Sharon Rowe, Secretary
Joseph M. Price, Immediate Past President

Members

Sally Barton	Brian Cunningham	Carol Hartley
Rich Bishoff	Judy Deegans	Betty Ireland
Michael Bumgarner	Mark Grigsby	Dr. Shelda Martin
Miles Cary	Jill Griffith	Margaret May
Dr. David Clayman	Rebecca Harless	Don Wilson

Directors Emeritus Fred Boothe | Jane Condee | Richard "Chap" Donovan | Fred Holroyd | Miriam Knight
Augusta Kosowicz | Rick Miller | Drema Pierson | Dede Talbot | Rick Wallace

Artist enjoys a colorful outlook on life



For hospice patient John Snyder, painting is more than a hobby or a way to make a living. In fact, for him it has become a way of life that gives his world meaning and keeps him going each day.

John, 48, lives with his mother, Becky Snyder, at her home in Scott Depot. This summer, we had the opportunity to visit with him, and ask him how he

keeps such a positive outlook, despite his cancer diagnosis.

"Any day I can get up and create is a win!" he said in his plainspoken manner. "That's the most meaningful and important thing I can do. I can't get out of the house much, but I can go anywhere I want in the world behind the easel."

John wasn't always an artist. He started painting in 2002 at the age of 26 after being "called to paint."

"I got this calling from God that I needed to start painting. All I could think about was painting. Even my dreams were filled with painting," he said. "I knew very little about art and painting at the time, but I learned a lot of the basics from DVDs, videotapes and books, and started picking up tips. I ignored about half of it and did my own thing."

John has been a Type I diabetic since he was 4 and later developed ocular albinism that affected his eyesight, leaving him "a tick below legally blind," as he said.

Despite living with these illnesses from an early age, John hasn't let them get him down. But when he was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2022, he lost interest and felt like giving up. "I sold all my paint and supplies and just stopped painting."

Last March, however, the spirit moved him to pick up his brushes again. "I felt this calling from God to go back to painting," John said. "I saw an ad for the Hulu show, 'Paint,' starring Owen Wilson who plays a Bob Ross-like character on public television who loses his popularity to a younger painter. I watched it and that was it. Maybe it was a midlife crisis, but it was relatable. It got me painting again. I got the message that I needed to get."

As long as he can paint, he's not too worried about dying. "It's gonna happen to all of us. We all die. I just know it's going to happen sooner. I just want to do what's right and what's important, and that's it. It puts things in perspective. I've lost friends, but I've got painting to do. I've got other things to do before I die."

John's happy doing his own thing and finally living in the present. "I'm just enjoying the ride. I've never done this before," he said.

He truly appreciates having his hospice RN case manager Angie Allawat and CNA Melinda Boggess by his side.

"I wouldn't know what to do without them. They're the best. I couldn't ask for better caretakers. They're supportive, caring and friendly. If there's a problem, I don't have to worry because I know they are there and will take care of whatever needs to be done."

He said his goal before he dies is to cover every wall — floor to ceiling — with paintings, which was quite evident walking around the house-turned-gallery. Vibrant portraits, landscapes, abstracts, colorful chickens and even cartoon characters and celebrities are everywhere, on the walls in the living room, dining room, kitchen, hallways, three bedrooms and even the laundry room and bathroom.

John has dozens of small paintings of hummingbirds and other birds on 6"-square canvases, a variety of even more medium-sized pieces and about a dozen or so large ones that are just striking.

There's so much life in his paintings and not just what they depict or their subject matter. Despite being legally blind, John is able to draw the viewer in, capturing their imagination visually with a wide variety of strokes and depth of colors from his broad palette.

He takes great pride in his work but isn't concerned about their meaning. One large painting called, "The Golden Hour," depicts a rural landscape with the sun on the horizon. "I don't know if it's a sunrise or a sunset. I leave that up to others' interpretation," he said.

His largest painting hangs above his bed in the living room. It's of an old barn down the street that was falling in on itself about 10-12 years ago. "It's gone now but I took a picture of it and wanted to paint it," he said.



CNA Melinda Boggess, John and case manager Angie Allawat.

He never expected it to be so big, but he said, "One afternoon I was walking through Michael's while Steve Winwood's 'Back in the High Life Again' was playing over the speakers and for some reason I just had to go get the biggest canvas they had in stock. I had no idea what I was going to do with it, but I just had to get it. That's how it works. I find inspiration when it hits me."



He later came across the old photo and that was it.

He doesn't paint for the money or prestige, but said, "I've sold a few over the years but keep most of the older ones. Anything I've painted since March is up for sale."

Anyone interested in purchasing one of his paintings can contact his case manager Angie Allawat at 304-768-8523.

Hospice patient celebrates a big milestone

This summer we were proud to celebrate hospice patient Virginia Cadd's 105th birthday along with her family and friends!

Virginia was born on August 13, 1919, in Nitro, West Virginia, the youngest of seven siblings. At the time, her father was working as a carpenter at the Nitro Glycerin Plant during World War I.

She later married her husband, George Cadd, in 1939, and they started a family, raising three children – Linda, Stanley and Jeanette – while living in Charleston, Dunbar and Cross Lanes before George passed in 1981. Virginia now resides at Harmony of Southridge, an assisted living facility in South Charleston that helps her live as independently as possible. Her family says she is the

oldest resident there and might even be the oldest woman living in West Virginia.

Her daughter, Jeanette Bowen, said doctors often ask what her mother's secret is. She said her mother hasn't smoked or drank alcohol, adding she has prioritized a good diet over the years, but still loves sweets. She also doesn't take much medicine and her mind and memory are still quite sharp, Jeanette said. Best wishes for many more years of happy, healthy living to come!



Celebrate the holidays with Love Light Tree & Holly Jolly Brawley

We are grateful and blessed to be celebrating our 41st Annual Love Light Tree season throughout the holidays this year and hope you will help us spread light and warmth to all the families we serve around the Mountain State.



From November through the New Year, everyone is invited to make a donation and hang an ornament on one of our trees in honor or memory of a loved one to help us reach our annual campaign goal of \$100,000.

Our wonderful community partners at the Capitol Market and United Bank in Charleston, and the Greenbrier County Convention & Visitors Bureau in Lewisburg, are opening their doors again to house our Love Light Tree displays.

We also are excited to be decorating a special Love Light Tree again this year for the Downtown Charleston

Association's Holly Jolly Brawley festivities at City Center at Slack Plaza. We invite all visitors to make an online donation by scanning the special QR code ornaments adorning the tree.

Our largest annual fundraising campaign benefits patients and their families in need of hospice, palliative and bereavement care services throughout our 16-county service area across southern West Virginia. Community donations and fundraisers like this help us serve all who qualify for hospice services regardless of their ability to pay.

Donations are accepted at the displays and online at <https://www.hospicecarewv.org/41st-annual-love-light-tree-season/>. Our staff will ensure all ornaments are filled out with love and make their way onto the trees for everyone to enjoy!

For more information about our Love Light Tree season and how you can give, please call Jeff Sikorovsky at 304-768-8523 in Charleston or Brooke Glover at 304-645-2700 in Lewisburg.

On Angel Wings Ride keeps lifting Hubbard House higher



The 11th Annual On Angel Wings Ride in Memory of Nancy Ann Sutphin raised \$9,240 to benefit the Hubbard Hospice House with more than 60 bikes and nearly 100 riders making the trip up the hill to enjoy a hotdog picnic lunch, door prizes and perfect weather for their afternoon ride throughout the hills of West Virginia.

Special thanks to Ed Sutphin and his family for organizing this ride each year in memory of his wife, Ann, who had been a patient at the house in 2013. The ride has raised more than \$60,000 over the years to support patients and families served at the Hubbard House.

Thank you also to our Dietary Manager Nadine Walker and her volunteers at the Hubbard House for preparing the picnic lunch and delectable deserts for all the riders.

Thank you to the family and friends of Nancy Ann Sutphin (left to right): her brother, Harrison Jackson, Tim Powell; friend Timmy David; Administrator of Clinical Services Shellie Powell; husband Ed Sutphin; son James Sutphin and his wife, Danielle, and their daughters, Dixie and Daisy.



Coping with Grief During the Holidays

Join us for one of our free
Holiday Grief Support Groups
from 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays,
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26
and Dec. 3, 10, 17,
or 6-8 p.m. Thursdays,
Nov. 7, 14, 21 and Dec. 5, 12, 19.

Registration required.
RSVP by calling (304) 768-8523.

Helping our community work through grief during the holidays

The holiday season can be a difficult time for those grieving the loss of a loved one. That's where the Wallace Grief Support & Education Center can help!

Our Holiday Grief Support Groups are free and open to anyone in the community who needs additional support this time of year. The groups meet from 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays, November 5, 12, 19, 26 and December 3, 10, 17, or 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, November 7, 14, 21 and December 5, 12, 19.

We also hosted a Holiday Ornament Workshop this past year at our Charleston Office for children dealing with the loss of a loved one. Dozens of children and their families enjoyed a little holiday cheer by decorating ornaments in honor or memory of their loved ones to help work through their feelings of grief.

For more information and to register for a support group, please call 304-768-8523, or e-mail counseling@hospicecarewv.org.



Camp Mend-A-Heart offers kids some fun in the summer sun



Our Wallace Grief Support & Education Center welcomed about two dozen children and teens to our annual Camp Mend-A-Heart on Saturday, July 20 at Camp Hi-Tor in Scott Depot.

The camp invites kids who are grieving the loss of a loved one to enjoy a fun-filled day of arts & crafts, swimming, jumping around on inflatables, playing games and meeting a few new furry friends, all in a safe, understanding and supportive environment.

Our volunteers and staff, as well as the children and their families, made this year's camp a wonderful day of celebrating life and remembering lost loved ones. Special thanks to event sponsors Dan Dupay of Insurance Schools, Inc., Sarah Wishon and Ellen Mullins for their contributions to help cover costs for the camp.

Director of Bereavement & Spiritual Services Mike Dupay said, "Camp Mend-A-Heart is a great way for children to work through their grief since many have not developed coping skills to handle it. The camp is a special place for children to have their feelings validated and receive guidance."

Throughout the year, our Wallace Center staff provides on-site counseling and support groups at area schools to help children in crisis dealing with the death of a loved one or classmate.

The Wallace Center also offers several free support groups each week that provide a safe space for people to express their feelings, share stories about their loved ones and be heard and understood to help them in their healing journey.

From the death of a spouse, parent or other loved one for whatever reason, to the ongoing suffering of a terminally ill infant, child or teen, to loss due to miscarriage, suicide or overdose, our Wallace Center counselors, chaplains, social workers and volunteers are here to help everyone in the communities we serve learn to cope, heal and carry on with peace and comfort. We also have been able to comfort those who have lost a beloved family pet.

Our regular weekly adult grief support groups meet from 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays and 6-8 p.m. Thursdays at our Charleston Office, 1606 Kanawha Blvd., W. near Patrick Street. We also have a newly bereaved adult support group that meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, and a grief support group specifically for those affected by overdose death, from 4-6 p.m. Fridays.



For more information about individual counseling sessions or to register for a grief support group, please call 304-768-8523 and ask to speak to someone in the Wallace Grief Support & Education Center.

Third year is a charm at The French Goat



Thank you to all of our supporters who gathered this past spring in Lewisburg for another special night of delicious cuisine and fine wines at The French Goat Dinner & Wine Auction to Benefit HospiceCare. The highly anticipated dinner raises funds to support the families we serve in and around the Greenbrier Valley.

Special thanks to proprietors Arthur Forgette and Debbie Porter for hosting the wonderful event and coming up with an exquisite menu and wine pairings. We are also so grateful to Mark and Allyson Liebendorfer of the Country Vintner of West Virginia for their generous gift of wines for the dinner and auction and sharing their years of in-

depth knowledge and expertise with our guests who left with their bellies and hearts full!



Board member Carol Hartley, Mark VanBuren, Jennifer Runyon and Dave Chenoweth.

Golf Outing & Reception mark 14 years of driving the green for a great cause

We are grateful for everyone who came out to Edgewood Country Club in September to make our 14th Annual Keith Stonestreet Golf Outing & Tee-off Reception such a great success to benefit our patients and families.

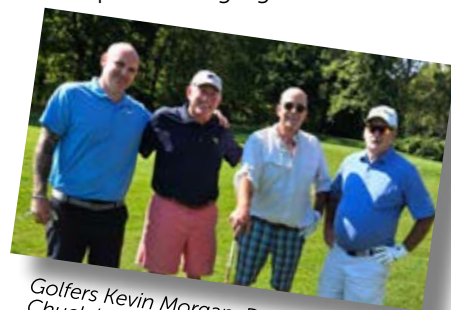
The event has raised more than \$1 million since it began in 2011. Special thanks to our Signature Sponsor AssuredPartners, and major sponsors, AT&T, Vandalia Wealth, Charleston Area Medical Center-Vandalia Health and the West Virginia Golf Association – First Tee-WV, for helping bring in more than \$50,000 this year!

This year's events were full of fun and comradery, with reception guests enjoying stories and a Q&A with former PGA Tour Golfer Colt Knost and PGA Rules Official Ken Tackett, as well as entertainment by the Bob Thompson Trio. Golfers for both the morning and afternoon tee-offs experienced gorgeous weather and high spirits.



Colt Knost

We are so appreciative of those who worked hard behind the scenes to make this year run so smoothly! Thank you to Edgewood Golf Pro Craig Berner, Kitchen Manager Marci Sponseller, Chef John Macklin, Special Events Coordinator Pama Rutledge and their staffs, and HospiceCare Volunteer Coordinator Donna Briggs and her volunteer team for making sure everyone enjoyed themselves.



Golfers Kevin Morgan, Dick Daugherty, Chuck Hayden and board member Rich Bishoff

Congratulations to our winning golf foursome of Andy Arbogast, Tom Isaac, Chad Hovis and Jake Jones from Spilman Thomas & Battle PLLC, second place team of Andy Feeney, Michael Bumgarner, Daniel Dewhurst and Christine Derienzo from AT&T, and third place team of Joe Price, David Russo, Jeff Waybright and JB McCuskey. Congratulations also to Bernie Harrison for making a hole-in-one on #4!

We hope to see everyone back again next year for our 15th annual event, so mark your calendars for September 4-5, 2025!



Rain couldn't dampen spirits at 2nd annual Buffalo horse parade

Thankfully, morning showers moved through the area in time for everyone to enjoy the 2nd Annual All Horse Parade and Live Auction to Benefit HospiceCare on Saturday, September 28th at Gazebo Park in Buffalo, WV.

The parade stepped off just after noon with more than 60 horses, ponies, mules and donkeys and their riders, some driving carriages and buggies, making the two-mile round trip down Main Street into town and back.

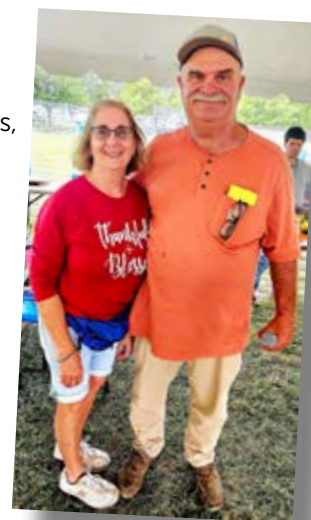
Spectators of all ages lined the route to take in the parade, followed by a delicious Amish meal provided by Mrs. Yoder's Kitchen of Mt. Hope, Ohio, and a live auction of hundreds of donated goods and services.

All told, the event raised \$17,400 to support our programs and services, bringing the two-year total

to more than \$30,000 raised! The total donation was a combination of personal and corporate sponsors and donations, parade participant registration, concessions, auction sales and other activities on the ground that day.

Special thanks to organizers Bill Whittington and Melody Matthews (at right), their parade committee members, sponsors and volunteers for making this second annual event such a success!

Here's to doing it all again next year on Saturday, September 20!



Happy Birthday, Doris

Our Charleston office staff surprised long-time volunteer, Doris Fix, with cake and hugs to celebrate her 96th birthday when she came to work June 28.

Doris has been a dedicated HospiceCare volunteer for 36 years. Her first assignment was helping with our Love Light Tree fundraising campaign in 1989. It wasn't long until she took over as chairwoman for the annual fundraiser, which celebrated its 40th year last December.

Doris has served in just about every way possible through our volunteer program. She's visited patients and

their families, delivered medicine and supplies to homes, assisted office staff and, for the past few years, has managed the monthly bereavement mailings, stuffing and sending out thousands of sympathy letters and other notices each year to nearly 3,000 families.



We're grateful for all Doris has done and continues to do for us, our patients and their families!



Brooke Glover

We come to you

Our community liaisons – Kristi Ash and Sierra Jones in Charleston and Brooke Glover in Lewisburg – have been busy this year visiting area doctors' offices, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living and other medical facilities, as well as attending various health fairs around the region.

Their message is simple – we can help you, your loved ones, physicians and caregivers better understand your options for hospice and palliative care services! They can also discuss our newest program, Home Health of West Virginia, with residents in Kanawha and Putnam counties.



Kristi Ash



Sierra Jones

They love coming to speak to your local community or church group, business, medical office, senior center, nursing home, assisted living facility or school any time. To schedule a time with one of them, please call Sierra and Kristi at 304-768-8523 in Charleston or Brooke at 304-645-2700 in Lewisburg.

Our Mission

Providing compassionate care and affirming life through hospice, palliative and other supportive care services to the patients, families and communities we serve.

Our Vision

To serve our patients and families with inclusive care through innovative, multi-disciplinary approaches and diverse community partnerships. Embracing our history of high-quality hospice care and rising to meet the expanding need of healthcare services in our communities.

Charleston Tennis Club aces another tournament to benefit HospiceCare

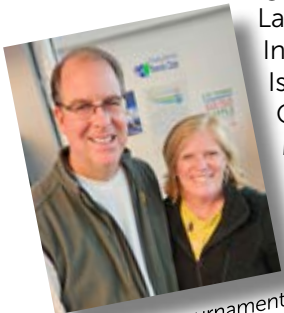
We are grateful for everyone who came out the first weekend in February for the 26th Annual HospiceCare Tennis Tournament at the Charleston Tennis Club.

Thank you to Nancy and Ed Tiffey and CTC staff, volunteers, players and spectators who helped make this year's event such a fun-filled success! More than 220 players teamed up to compete in 140 doubles matches at this year's regional USTA event.



Special thanks to our tournament sponsors who helped raise more than \$35,000 this year to benefit our patients and their families, bringing the event's total to more than \$663,000 since it began in 1999: Steve &

Laura Wehrle; Ethan's Toy Box / the McNeeley Family; Tiffey Law Practice, PLLC; In Memory of Celine; DiPiero, Simmons, McGinley & Bastress, PLLC; Rory & Kim Isaac; Cooke Funeral Home & Pet Crematorium; Dave & Aileen Stacy; Dr. Joe Crow & Gwyneth Owen; the Elliot Family; City National Bank of WV; Elco Mechanical; Charleston Area Medical Center; In Memory of Uncle Pete; Aric Margolis Architecture, PLLC; WVU Medicine Thomas Hospitals; Jim & Karen Smith; Joe & Bobbi Holland; Mary Cook & Sean Frisbee; Jason & Elizabeth Castle; Mullen Plumbing, Heating & Cooling; and Wooton, Davis, Hussell & Johnson, PLLC.



CTC Tennis tournament organizers Ed and Nancy Tiffey



Mark your calendars to join us for the 27th annual tournament Friday, January 31 through Sunday, February 2, 2025.



Get paid while learning a new career

HospiceCare offers a paid Nursing Assistant Program for anyone without previous healthcare experience to learn everything they need to know to safely provide patient care.

As paid employees on day one, students enjoy hands-on learning working as a "cohort," a small group that progresses through the program together. They gain lifelong skills and knowledge, have access to an emotionally rewarding career with job stability while earning competitive wages as they learn. Every day is different and the skills they develop can transfer to other job opportunities.

Students can participate in HospiceCare's tuition reimbursement program for money to use toward a certification program or nursing degree – up to \$2,000 maximum each calendar year, with a total of \$5,000 lifetime – with no contractual obligation to stay with us upon completion. Funds can be used to reimburse 100% of tuition, books, fees and other reasonable costs as determined by HospiceCare.

For more information about the program or to register for next year's course, call Shellie Powell at 304-768-8523.

Giving back to those we serve is a gift for us

HospiceCare is grateful for all the community support we receive throughout the year from fundraisers and other activities held to benefit our patients and families. Our team also takes pride in giving back to those same communities.

Each year our staff volunteers as part of the United Way of Central West Virginia's Day of Caring to help other local charities that make a big difference in the lives of others, while our Hubbard Hospice House also benefits as a project site.

For the 19th Annual Day of Caring in September, we sent two teams to help clean up and organize The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs in Charleston and St. Albans before the kids arrived for their after-school programs, and we welcomed volunteers from City National Bank who helped beautify our gardens at the Hubbard Hospice House.

Our staff with The PalliativeCare Center also held its 2nd Annual Patient Pamper Day in June to assist patients and families served by our Charleston and Lewisburg offices.

The palliative care team helped build a craft room, cleaned houses, landscaped yards and planted flowers among other activities. Supervisor Miranda Broyles said, "It was a wonderful day of team building and fellowship while providing care to our patients where they need it most!"



Excellence is our top priority

Nursing Supervisor Norissa Rupe (left), Education Coordinator Kelly McFarland (center), and Hubbard Hospice House Administrator, Chanda Jeffrey (right) attended The Partnership for Excellence's 25th Annual Quest for Excellence Conference in September in Columbus, OH. The event is the premier conference for organizational leaders and performance excellence professionals to share their experiences with building high-quality teams and gain insights for continuous improvement. We are blessed to have such high-quality professionals leading our staff here at HospiceCare!



Take me out to the ball game



It was a perfect evening for a Dirty Birds game against the Lancaster Barnstormers during HospiceCare's Night Out at GoMart Ballpark in June.

Nurse Heather Arden, LPN, threw out the first pitch, while staff and their families enjoyed a catered picnic dinner on the patio deck in left field and watched the game from seats along the third base line. Everyone had a wonderful time gathering with their colleagues outside of work to have fun, relax and take in a few hours of America's pastime.

Kanawha Valley Builders Association continues strong tradition of giving

Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council (left), and Luther Lasure, Executive Director of the Kanawha Valley Builders Association (right), presented our CEO, Christopher Rawlings, with a check for \$8,500 from the WV State Building Trades' 30th Annual KVBA Labor-Management Golf Scramble earlier this summer.

The annual golf event celebrated 30 years this year, and HospiceCare has been the recipient of the event's fundraising efforts for 22 of those years! We are incredibly grateful for the WV State Building Trades' continued generous support, which has totaled more than \$115,000 since 2002, including support for our 14th Annual Keith Stonestreet Golf Outing & Tee-off Reception this year!





New golf tournament benefits Peyton House

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the

inaugural Linda Underwood

Memorial Golf Tournament to Benefit HospiceCare on August 24 at Valley View Golf Course in White Sulphur Springs.

Linda's husband, George, organized the tournament to honor his beloved wife who died from brain cancer in March, and to give back to those who cared for her during her last few months of life at the Peyton House.

"They did a wonderful job," George said. "I decided to put on a golf tournament to show my appreciation for all of them. I just cannot thank them enough."

Thanks to all the golfers and generous sponsors, the tournament raised \$6,127 to benefit local families receiving hospice, palliative and bereavement care services from the Lewisburg office. The funds also go directly to support the Peyton House, which is celebrating its 10th Anniversary of serving patients and their families from around the Greenbrier Valley and beyond.

"We have had a lot of support for this cause from a lot of companies. We are so appreciative of all the local people who have helped out in support of my wife," George said.

We look forward to continuing to grow this community event next year!

SPONSORS

- Grist Real Estate
- Health Insurance Services of WV
- WV State Parks
- Doss Excavating
- Go Mart
- Barnwood Living
- Jerry Beasley
- Greenbrier Valley Brewing Company
- Hawk Knob Cider
- Farmers Home Fire Insurance Company
- Bethesda Church
- Sportsman Tavern
- State Farm
- Walmart
- Pepsi Cola
- American Beer Company
- Beverage Market
- Lewisburg Elks Club
- Grandview Golf Club
- Valley View Golf Club
- Gustards Bistro
- Country Roads Brewery
- Hill and Holler
- Fountain Springs Golf Club
- The Sportsman Tavern
- Kinnison Group Insurance and Financial Services



George Underwood and Volunteer Liaison Booke Glover



Education sessions provide important information to our community

HospiceCare employees representing a diverse areas of expertise, partnered with Vandalia Wealth Management to provide three wonderful, engaging and heartfelt informational sessions for Vandalia Wealth's clients to discuss caregiving, the differences between hospice and palliative care, and our family and community bereavement care programs and services.



In addition to educating those in attendance, each session fostered an environment of sharing that prompted people to give testimonials about their own experiences with hospice.

We are so grateful for our community partners who allow us to reach more people with the message of comfort, dignity and peace no matter where they are on their healthcare journey.

At HospiceCare, we encourage our patients and their families to not only plan ahead for their own physical needs, but also their financial well-being. Our Finance Department can work with community members interested in planned giving in a variety of ways, including setting up tax-free annuities, estate gifts and memorial contributions, or direct giving from IRAs. These gifts not only help us with our mission, but can benefit the donor's bottom line today and after they pass.

To discuss estate planning options with HospiceCare or have someone speak at your next your business, church or civic group meeting, please contact Jessica Hall at 304-768-8523.



Welcome Cactus Jack

Our friendly new therapy dog, Cactus Jack, has been busy this year making the rounds to bring comfort and positivity. The big, cuddly St. Bernard and his owner, Steve Ray, visit our in-patient units on a regular basis to bring smiles to our patients, their families, staff and volunteers.

If you meet him, don't let his size intimidate you – he won't bite, but he might slobber a bit!

Young Gun represents next generation of leadership at HospiceCare

HospiceCare is proud to recognize Jessica Hall, our Director of Communications and Development, for being named to *West Virginia Executive Magazine's* Young Guns, Class of 2024, at an awards ceremony last November.

Young Guns represent West Virginia's next generation of leaders who are already accomplishing great things through their careers and in their communities. When asked about her time at HospiceCare, Jessica stated, "Hospice has played such an important role in my life personally that when the opportunity arose to work to spread the word on how amazing HospiceCare is, I jumped at it."



We are so glad you did! Congratulations, Jessica, on your well-deserved honor! For more about Jessica and her award, visit <https://wvexecutive.com/jessica-hall/>.

Vigil volunteers will always be by your side

At HospiceCare we strive to ensure no patient dies alone. To fulfill this pledge, our vigil volunteers are an essential part of the hospice team by sitting with and providing companionship to hospice patients that are alone and actively dying.

Vigil volunteers are available to sit with the patient when their family and loved ones are not available or out of town. Some patients don't have any immediate family or friends locally but our vigil volunteers ensure they receive personal attention and comfort during this difficult time.

The patient's nurse or social worker contacts our Volunteer Department to initiate the service and provide as much patient information as possible, giving the vigil volunteer background on them, their family, occupation, religion, hobbies and interests, etc.

Volunteer Supervisor Alicia King said, "We encourage our vigil volunteers to read, play music, provide touch and comfort, and write notes or journal about their time with the patient. These notes can then be sent to the family to reassure their loved one was comfortable and did not die alone."

Vigil volunteers are also able to sit with family members who are afraid to sit alone with their loved ones while they pass or need extra emotional support. This service has also been a big support to our in-patient hospice and nursing home staff, as they become very close to their patients and cannot always be at their side due to caring for other patients.

For more information about how to become a vigil volunteer, please contact Alicia at 304-768-8523.

Chocolate Chase a sweet success

We want to thank the more than 115 runners and walkers who came out to our 16th Annual Chocolate Chase 5K/10K to benefit HospiceCare in April as part of the Lewisburg Chocolate Festival. Locals and festival attendees cheered on 58 runners and walkers for the 5K, and 47 runners in the 10K as they traversed both downtown and scenic Lewisburg.

Special thanks also to: Lewisburg Mayor Beverly White; Caren and Ricky Campbell of APTiming; volunteers John Gallagher, Esa Gervasio, Kristin Ngo and Maddy Bash from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine; volunteers Sally Kelly, Sherry Stewart, Carolyn Bryant, Jeannie Zopp, Jenni Baker and Jamie Fisher from HospiceCare; Steve Hunter and Matt Cutlip of the Fairlea IGA; Kelly Campbell of the Union IGA; and our friends at Post Net, Lewisburg EMS, Robert C. Byrd Clinic, Alleghany Tees and United Way of the Greenbrier Valley.

And a big thank you to our generous event sponsors:

PLATINUM

- The American Beer Company
- The Bank of Monroe
- Kissito Healthcare: The Brian Center Alleghany
- CAMC Greenbrier Valley Medical Center - Vandalia Health
- CommuniCare West Virginia
- Farmers Home Fire Insurance Company of WV
- Greenbrier Automotive Group
- Lewisburg Chocolate Festival
- Morgan Funeral Home
- Ryan Blake for Judge
- Wallace and Wallace Funeral Home Lewisburg WV
- Walmart Vision Center and Pharmacy, Lewisburg

GOLD

- Ambler & Dotson, LC
- Bellacino's Pizza and Grinders
- Caden Glover Music
- Cornerstone IGA
- Country Road Realty, LLC
- Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Lewisburg
- Greenbrier Valley Fitness
- Robert C. Byrd Clinic
- Thomas Rose Inn

For results and photos from the event, please visit aptiming.com.



Home Health of West Virginia meets highest standard of care

Last year, we announced the opening of our new service line – Home Health of West Virginia – and over the past 12 months, our team has actively been working to build the highest quality home health service in the region. Our Home Health of West Virginia team is here to provide skilled nursing, medical social work support, physical therapy, occupational therapy, care teaching and training, and clinical coordination. Services are covered under Medicare, PEIA, UMWA and several other private insurances.

By bringing HospiceCare's whole patient, team approach to care, Home Health of West Virginia works with patients, their caregivers and physicians to provide specialized services that meet their specific health goals.

Home Health of West Virginia also is the only home healthcare agency in the area certified as a Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) that meets the industry's highest standards for care.

You or a loved one may benefit from Home Health of West Virginia services if you:

- Have a chronic illness such as heart disease, diabetes, COPD, kidney disease, etc.;
- Are recovering from a recent surgery or acute illness;
- Have frequent visits to the ER, hospital, or your doctor;
- Would like support and education to manage your condition effectively.

We are here to help patients dealing with a variety of healthcare issues live as comfortably as possible at home with assistance. Our services benefit people living with these and many other conditions:

- Multiple comorbidities with poor symptom management;
- Cognitive or memory issues;
- Wounds of recent surgeries;
- Recent falls or problems with balance;
- New, multiple or changed medications;
- Chronic pain or limited mobility;
- Poor endurance or an inability to exercise;
- Difficulty performing activities of daily living and personal care;
- Multiple emergency room visits or high risk for hospitalization;
- Living alone or with an elderly spouse.

For more information about how we can help you or your loved one, or to make a referral, please call 304-400-4020 or visit us anytime online at homehealthwv.org.



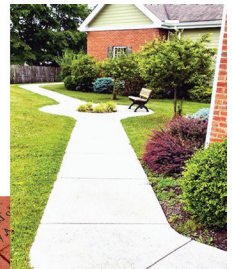
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Paving a lasting legacy

Now is a great time to create your own personalized brick paver in honor or memory of a loved one to line our memorial path at Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg, or add to our garden walkway at the Hubbard Hospice House in Charleston. For more information or to order your brick for the Peyton House, visit brickmarkersusa.com/donors/hsc.html or call Missy VanBuren at 304-645-2700 in Lewisburg; and for the Hubbard House, call Sara Larch at 304-926-2200 in Charleston.

*Leave a lasting memory
in honor of your loved one.
Order a brick paver today!*



Three-peat Hospice Honors for 2024

For the third year in a row, we are proud to announce that HospiceCare has been named a Hospice Honors award recipient by HEALTHCAREfirst for going above and beyond to provide high-quality care for our patients and caregivers.

Hospice Honors is a prestigious program that recognizes hospices from all over the United States identified as providing the highest level of quality care to patients as measured from the caregiver's point of view.



"We are honored to receive this award as a testament to our commitment to delivering compassionate care and support to our patients and their families during life's most challenging moments," HospiceCare CEO Christopher Rawlings said. "This prestigious accolade reaffirms our dedication to excellence and inspires us to continue striving for the highest standards of quality care in every aspect of our service."

HEALTHCAREfirst is a leading provider of billing and coding services, Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers & Systems (CAHPS) surveys and advanced analytics. For more information about the award, visit <https://www.healthcarefirst.com/hospice-cahps-honors-award-program/>.

The PalliativeCare Center is here for you from the moment of diagnosis

Managing a serious illness can be overwhelming and having the support of an interdisciplinary team can provide comfort and peace of mind. But what if you are not ready for hospice services?

HospiceCare proudly offers The PalliativeCare Center, providing specialized care for individuals living with serious illness, but who are not yet eligible for hospice services.

Even as you continue to seek curative care, we can help you find and utilize resources in the community, navigate the healthcare system and provide support along the way.



Through The PalliativeCare Center, we empower you to make decisions that meet your goals and wishes. To learn more about how we can help you and your loved ones, please call 304-941-1951.