

# HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE ONDANGE ONDANGE

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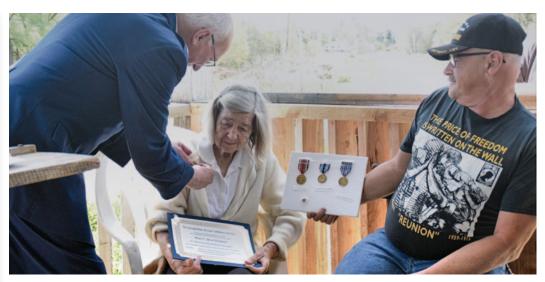
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# **CHPC Launches** Veteran Pinning Program

CHAUTAUQUA HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE (CHPC) LAUNCHED ITS veteran recognition program on May 20 with the pinning of WWII veteran, Marie C. Dean Harmony. The County Veterans Services Administration collaborated with CHPC on this inaugural ceremony with Colonel Gary Chilcott performing the pinning.

Marie Dean Harmony was one of 59,000 nurses who served in the Army Nurse Corps. Within the "chain of evacuation" established by the Army Medical Department during WWII, nurses served near the front lines in field and evacuation hospitals, on hospital trains and ships, and as flight nurses on medical transport planes. The skill and dedication of these nurses contributed to the extremely low post-injury mortality rate among American military forces in every theater of the war. More than 200 nurses died in combat.

"My mother served in the 142nd Army Mobile Hospital Unit," said George Harmony, Marie's son. "Besides serving in the 142nd supporting the Flying Tigers in Calcutta, she served on Alcatraz Island which served as a military hospital before it was a prison." One word summarized George's description of the pinning ceremony: "Fantastic!"

(continued on page 12)





### Dear Friends and Family,

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY IS A BEAUTIFUL AREA WITH MANY DEDICATED, compassionate people who take action each and every day to make this a better place to live for all residents. We are proud to have been part of this community for 35 years and are working hard to optimize our part in the continuum of health care. We realize the world of healthcare is rapidly changing all around us. Money is tighter and regulations are more abundant so working harder is not enough – we have to work smarter as well! We need to put on our running shoes every day!

To more accurately reflect who we are and what we do in the county, we recently completed a name change and slightly adjusted our logo. From now on we are officially "Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care". Thanks to gracious donations by R. Quintus and Sondra Anderson of our

building in Lakewood, the Johnson Foundation support of our Palliative Program, and the many others recognized in this newsletter, we are able to continue providing palliative and end-of-life care to all who need it.

In this issue you will read about many new initiatives that are being explored here at CHPC. We are collaborating with other healthcare agencies to educate key constituents and train our staff. We are launching an annual appeal and a planned giving program to assure our long-term financial strength and to counter cuts by Medicare and other insurances.

On pages 4 and 5 you will see an article about our 35th anniversary and "A Dream" of one of our early Hospice nurses for a full-service, Medicare-reimbursed Hospice program. That dream has come true! Now we are dreaming about a day when residents fully understand Hospice and Palliative care and we never hear the words, "We should have called sooner."

We are committed to, and deeply imbedded in, our county. Our doors are always open and if you have questions, want information, or wish to share an idea or concern, please feel free to come to our office in Lakewood, call us at 338-0033, email us, or contact us through our website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Shawa Arderson

President & C.E.O.

Chautauqua Hospice & Palliative Care

# Service of Remembrance & Memorial Butterfly Release

The spring **2016 Service of Remembrance and Butterfly Release** was moved to Northern Chautauqua County. It was held at SUNY Fredonia in the Science Center and Courtyard on June 5. Our Light A Life memorial tree Lighting Service will continue to be held in the south county.





## CHPC Palliative Care Program Rededicated:

## John A. & Oscar Johnson Palliative Care Program

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JOHNSON FOUNDATION'S generous support of the CHPC Palliative Care program, it was rededicated as the "John A. and Oscar Johnson Palliative Care Program" at a ceremony on December 23, 2015.

Begun in 2012, the program focuses on providing timely, home-based medical care for residents of Chautauqua County who are debilitated from chronic illness such as COPD, cancer, diabetes or stroke. Unlike hospice patients, palliative patients may be undergoing curative treatment and often see multiple specialists. Palliative care seeks to keep patients comfortable and out of the hospital by controlling symptoms like pain and nausea while coordinating the care of the specialists and the patient's primary care physician.

"Carole and I are very pleased to make this investment in this Palliative Care Program," said John Sellstrom, Trustee of the Johnson Foundation. "It fits on all four corners what the Johnson brothers intended at the inception of the Foundation.
Children and adults
of every age will
benefit greatly by
this caring and
understanding
service to
our community.



The program has been named in honor of John A. and Oscar Johnson, two Swedish-born brothers who immigrated to Jamestown. The brothers were successful home builders for other Swedish families in the community and relied on John Sellstrom, Esq. for their legal guidance. The brothers' savings funded the creation of a memorial trust that was administered by Mr. Sellstrom. These funds were the basis for the formation of the Johnson Foundation which has supported charitable, religious and educational organizations in our community for the past 20 years.

#### CHPC Collaborates On

## **Medical Training Conference**

CHAUTAUQUA HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE collaborated with the Chautauqua County Health Network, Associated Medical Partners and Chautauqua Integrated Delivery System in the presentation of a training conference on March 16 at the Chautauqua Suites.

The event, billed as "Caring Wisely Conference," provided training on palliative care for local medical practices. Over 80 local nursing and medical staff attended the 3-hour training program.

The Conference included presentations by Patrick Collins, M.D., Christopher Kerr, M.D., Ph.D. and Chautauqua Hospice & Palliative Care Medical Director, Thomas Putnam, M.D. Their contributions highlighted the impact of appropriate, timely intervention on patient outcomes.

While many chronic diseases warrant palliative care,

advanced heart disease as a target population for palliative care was studied in detail at the conference. In addition, training focused on enabling open dialogue with chronically ill patients, documenting their healthcare decisions and the new CMS Advance Care Billing (CPT) Codes for advance directive implementation.

"By focusing on heart disease at this conference, we not only addressed the most prevalent chronic illness, we also sent the message that hospice and palliative care are not just for cancer patients," remarked Dr Putnam. "And palliative care can help people long before hospice is appropriate."

The Chautauqua Palliative Care team is available to visit local medical practices for additional training and consultation. Please call Lynn Austin at 338-0022 to arrange such a visit.



# **Donors Thanked for Their Support**

Recent donors and financial contributors of Chautauqua Hospice & Palliative Care were thanked for their support at two donor appreciation events. The events featured snacks, refreshments and agency updates followed by the screening of the PBS Frontline documentary, "Being Mortal."

Two events were staged on two consecutive evenings in March, one at SUNY Fredonia and the other at the Reg Lenna Civic Center in Jamestown. The casual evenings gave donors the opportunity to meet staff, understand how their support makes possible mission-critical services, and screen the highly-acclaimed documentary about end-of-life medical care in America.

"These events gave us the opportunity to give a little something back to our supporters," said Shauna Anderson, President & CEO of CHPC. "And having members of our treatment teams on hand made for some touching reunions."



# Reflections on 35 Years

2016 MARKS A SPECIAL MILESTONE IN THE LIFE OF HOSPICE CARE in Chautauqua County: it is the 35th anniversary of the incorporation of the Hospice Information And Referral Service of Southwestern New York.

Our 35-year journey began in donated office space over a garage in Sinclairville furnished with donated furniture and volunteer caregivers. Today we still occupy much more modern and dignified offices, employ 60 full-time staff, care for 700 patients a year and have a new name: Chautauqua Hospice & Palliative Care.



There are many other contrasts between our early days and today, but there are also many similarities. Volunteers still play an important part as we provide "intensive caring" to our patients and families. Local foundations that helped us to form and achieve Medicare certification have supported us as we have established the John A. & Oscar Johnson Palliative Care Program. And the need for Hospice care in our community and country has never been more profound.



In recognition of our 35th anniversary year, we reached out to important volunteers and community leaders who were important in the early days of Hospice care in Chautauqua County. Many individuals played important roles bringing Hospice care to our community, and they all remain passionate about the mission of CHPC. There were

many, too many to list without the possibility of missing someone. Some remain in our community, some have moved from the area and some have passed; we are indebted to them all.

Two individuals, Barb Engdahl and Mildred Withington, took the time to reflect with us in a conference call about earliest days of service delivery. Barb, a resident in a Lutheran-Jamestown residence, and Mildred, who lives in Youngsville, PA, remain close friends and were among the first volunteers to take Hospice care off the drawing board and into the homes of our residents in the early '80s.

We were also able to connect with Katherine Beiter, a nurse who came to our organization in the late '80s and who has a distinguished career in end-of-life care. She wrote a wonderful article, "A Dream," in our 1992 newsletter at a time when we were not yet Medicare-certified and robust Hospice care was not yet available in Chautauqua County. Katherine has



# of "Intensive Caring"

given us permission to reprint the article and we share it with you to show how far we've come in 35 years.

#### A Dream

By Katherine Beiter

I want to share with you a dream of mine. Because I've grown to love Chautauqua County in the last five years since I've lived here, and because I believe so very much in the Hospice Concept of Care, I feel the need to share a Dream with each of our Hospice volunteers.

As a home care nurse in 1976 in Utica, NY, I remember standing at the bedside of a dying patient who was crying out, "Why can't anyone help me?" As the nurse, I felt helpless in being able to intervene in getting his physical symptoms controlled; pain was very severe but the doctor would only order a moderate pain pill. Robert felt abandoned by the doctor who felt no need to see him anymore since his treatment was stopped.

His wife, the only family member and the primary caregiver, needed so much more support, more than I could give her in my limited time and lack of experience with the dying. There was no such thing as a counselor or volunteer who could help Marie with some of the difficult issues. The pastor would come but he was not very skilled in helping someone deal with the often agonizing questions of dying. At the time Hospices were not in existence. I remember feeling like I had to be a superhuman nurse to try to meet all the needs of this family. That was impossible. I yearned for some "magical" team of people, specialists in the care of dying persons, to exist somewhere to help the many Maries and Roberts of the world.

Then I discovered Hospice; it was like a DREAM come true – nurses and doctors who were specialized in the symptom management of dying patients and who were willing to keep them at home where they most wanted to be. There was a counselor skilled in helping a family deal with the anticipated death or to work with the children. There was a pastor available when the family had none. I discovered the bereavement services which, up until then, had been unheard of in health care. Then there were wonderful volunteers, trained in being able to minister in such special ways, in such unique ways to these families. All that would have made such a difference to Robert and Marie.

Not only were the people in Utica dreaming, but a handful of folks in Chautauqua County were also dreaming ...

We have only enough space to share a portion of the article. Please go to our website where we have published the entire article. It can be found at www.chpc.care/stories.

# Planned Giving Is A Win-Win

Supporting CHPC through bequests, life insurance or appreciated securities is helpful to us and can provide you with significant tax savings. There are a myriad of possibilities and we would be grateful for the opportunity to speak with you. Call our office and ask to speak to Andy Dickson at ext. 201.

# A Very Special Volunteer Retires



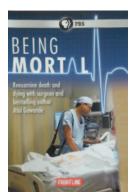
Bill Larson is a modest man. He'll tell you he puts his pants on one leg at a time, just like everyone else. But he is a very special friend to Hospice and his peers at VFW #8647 Lake Chautaugua Memorial Post.

Eleven years ago he organized the first "Don't Know Your Partner Bowling
Tournament" as a fun way to beat cabinfever. It has grown to a much-anticipated
fundraiser, and this year the event raised
\$6,500 for Hospice bringing the elevenyear total to \$50,000. In all but one year
the proceeds of the tournament have been
given to Hospice; that year they were
directed to help the family of a firefighter
killed in the line of duty. Members of the
Men's Auxiliary and VFW Auxiliary help
make the event a success and Bill is now
passing the reins of the event chairmanship
to his niece, Shannon Larson.

In honor of his fundraising achievement, Chautauqua Hospice & Palliative Care presented Bill with a plaque on May 18.



## **Difficult Conversation** Made A Little Easier



IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE PBS FRONTLINE documentary, "Being Mortal", we'd like to share it with you. The film highlights the importance of advance care planning and being firmly in control of our individual healthcare decisions.

FRONTLINE follows renowned

New Yorker writer and Boston surgeon Atul Gawande as he explores the relationships doctors have with patients who are nearing the end of life. Based on his new book of the same title, the film investigates the practice of caring for the dying, and shows how doctors – himself included – are often untrained and uncomfortable talking about chronic illness and death with their patients.

"The documentary shines light into one of the most difficult and frustrating aspects of end-of-life care," said Shauna Anderson President & CEO of CHPC. "Too often patients are referred to us who are actively dying and who die in pain before we can comfort them. Too many family members have told us, 'We should have called sooner' and regret not spending the most valuable last days at home, pain-free with their loved ones."

CHPC was invited to share the documentary with an audience of over 100 people at Lutheran of Jamestown on May 19 and it was very well received.

We welcome the opportunity to speak to groups or churches who may not have time to view the 55-minute film. Call us if you would like a brief presentation on the importance and nuances of advance care planning.

# STAFF NEWS



#### **Kathy Westerdahl**

CHPC mourns the death of Kathy Westerdahl, RN Case Manager, who died on January 29, 2016.

Kathy worked at CHPC since 2006 and is remembered as an unflappable, good-spirited team member who

always reassured her peers, when the going got tough, "It's all good." Those words are now spoken by team members in memory of her unfaltering optimism. Kathy handled the most difficult cases with grace and is deeply missed by her co-workers and those she cared for.

Kathy discovered end-of-life care through a clinical rotation during nursing school. She worked the required two years in medical-surgical nursing, then applied immediately at Hospice and was hired.

She deeply touched the staff, patients, their families and the community and her legacy is enduring.



#### **Bill Leslie**

Bill Leslie retired as CHPC Chaplain in April. He came to us following a distinguished career in teaching, most recently as Assistant Professor of Mathematics at SUNY Fredonia. He was ordained as an Elder of the Free Methodist Church of North America on

May 30, 2008 and joined our team that same month.

Bill uses a food analogy to describe his seven-plus years at Hospice: "If life is like a delicious dessert, Hospice was the cherry on top!"

Bill's wife, Bev, keeps him focused on his Honey-do list when he's not riding his bike, or spending time with his granddaughter. He still finds time for ministry and assists several young men on a one-on-one basis. He also ministers to young men at the Lakeview Shock Incarceration Facility.

Godspeed, Bill!



# **COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS**

Since 2012 our Medicare reimbursement has increased only 2.7% due to "sequestration" by the Federal government; all the while healthcare inflation continues to raise the cost of our supplies, medications, etc. at an alarming rate. Fundraising and contributions from community organizations are needed to off-set these cuts and sustain the quality care we provide. Here are a few of the big-hearted individuals who help raise money and awareness for CHPC. Have an idea for a community Fundraiser? Give us a call!

## **Chicken Barbecue Raises** \$1,500 For CHPC

Employees from the Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat CPA firm and the BLB Insurance Agency, Inc. of Fredonia raised funds for Chautauqua Hospice & Palliative Care by serving up barbecue chicken dinners. Approximately 350 dinners were served thanks to their hard work and dedication to the cause. Stay tuned for this year's cookout which will take place in late September.



## The Shred Center Hosts Earth Day Fundraiser For CHPC

The Shred Center and Mazany Contract
Interiors offered free shredding on Earth Day
this year... for only the cost of a donation to
Chautauqua Hospice & Palliative Care! The
event took place on April 22 at their 428
Livingston Ave. location and resulted in \$620
in donations. The Mazany's have made the
event an annual affair and plan to do it again
in 2017. Bring your sensitive documents to the
next event!





#### Moniuszko Social Club Donates \$2,500 To CHPC

Once again, the Moniusko Social Club donated funds from their fundraising efforts to CHPC. The club has donated to Hospice each of the last seven years. The club supports many other charitable causes in the Dunkirk area in addition to CHPC, and we're lucky to have them as our friends!

#### Westfield Haunted Mill Scares Up Funds For Hospice



When Ed Slate converts his building to the "Haunted Mill," some ghoulish fun always results. This year's event ran during the weekends

of September and October, and \$3,080 was donated to CHPC. This is the third time the event has benefited Hospice.



#### **Zumba With Sue**

Sue Chaffee rallied other Zumba instructors for a joint community fundraiser this Spring. When the jumping, kicking and swinging was over, Sue's zumba followers had contributed \$623 for CHPC!

#### St. Luke's Theater Group Raises \$850

A local church's flair for the dramatic recently benefitted CHPC. St. Luke's Episcopal Church's acting troupe, The Winged Ox Players, put on a series of performances of the show "The Life and Death of Everyman" in September; proceeds benefitted CHPC and WCA palliative care programs.



#### **Hoops For Hospice**

In their sixth annual Hoops For Hospice event, the basketball team helped to support CHPC, as well as raise awareness for childhood cancer. While they were shooting baskets and running the ball, the girls raised approximately \$3,700 for the cause. Emily Scholeno, girls varsity coach (left), Helen Keefe and Kelly Seaholm led the fundraising effort that brought in contributions from businesses and individuals from around the district.





# **Volunteers** *Make A Difference*



AT OUR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION dinner on May 23, Connee Brown and her dog, Trixie, were recognized as the Volunteers Of The Year.

Connie and Trixie have been calling on hospice patients since 2011, bringing unconditional love when it's needed most. Patients who love animals but no longer have a pet love spending time with Trixie. Family members of a hospice patient, especially kids, also appreciate Trixie's positive outlook.

"Trixie does all the work," said Brown. "She knows what to do and can bring happiness when personal interaction might not do the job. It's so fulfilling to watch her interact and for both of us to be welcomed into the lives of hospice families."

Mary Jo Bradish oversees CHPC's volunteer program. "Connie and Trixie are perfect examples of the wonderful group of volunteers who support our clinical staff," said Mary Jo. "All of our volunteers are top notch, and I hope Connie's and Trixie's story will inspire more people to help us with patient care."

## Volunteer Opportunities

Besides patient care, CHPC needs volunteers with many other skills and interests. Here are just a few of our volunteer needs:

WordPress website management
Data manipulation & entry
Gardening
Creative writing
Videography & photography
Handyman for building projects
Archivist

Please call our volunteer coordinator, Mary Jo Bradish, at 338-0033 if you have any of these skills and offer an few hours of your time each week.

## Memorial Garden Gets A Makeover

CHPC IS GIVING ITS MEMORIAL Garden a new look with the help of Dean O'Brien of Roberts Nursery and Tri James Services. The agency sign will also be getting a facelift.

The garden and memorial markers and new plantings will be consolidated around the refurbished sign. The new garden will be smaller and easier to maintain.

Thank you to Roberts Nursery, Tri James Services, the Master Gardeners, Jamestown Gardening Club and volunteer gardeners who have helped us along the way.













## In Memory of...

Adelia Amberman Sally Kier Marian Anderson Greg Madej and Kathryn Jolley Madej Alan and Judith Ramsay Susan Anderson Barbara Best Chautauqua Lake Teachers Assoc Carol Crandall Janith Green Hansen Financial Group Paul and Barbara Hoitink Troy and Donna Moss Reynolds Inc Bonnie Sundlov Jack Armstrong
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Caroline Young Ray Wilcox Lori Carson Fanchon Fuller Stefanie Mittlefehldt



(continued from page 1)

Marie was awarded four medals at the pinning ceremony: the WWII Victory Medal, the Humanitarian Service Metal, the American Campaign Medal and the Honorable Service Lapel Pin.

Recognition of veterans under hospice care is intended to benefit both the patient and family. Sometimes veterans have kept their war experiences deep inside and need to share them; families treasure the opportunity to learn about their loved one's service. "The pinning ceremony can serve to open the door to wonderful family conversations," said Tom Summerville, VP of Clinical Services. "More than anything, the

pinning ceremony is just a nice gesture."

CHPC's pinning ceremony was developed with the help of veteran volunteers Rolly Kidder, Dave Shepherd, Mike Lyons and Marty Idzik. CHPC will now work to recognize all its veteran patients who will allow us to honor them.



#### **Did You Know...**

...not all hospice care is created equal? Providers and services vary between states and counties.

...60% of hospice care in the U.S. is provided by for-profit providers? CHPC is a non-profit governed by volunteer residents of our community.

...we are the only agency that can provide the Medicare hospice benefit in Chautauqua County?

...Hospice care is not just for cancer patients?

...bereavement support is available for free for all community residents, not just families who have received Hospice care?

7/30 Ath Annual Mel Perks Memorial Motorcycle Run, The Pad in Kennedy, NY
Woon Brook Country Club Moon Brook Country Club Memorial Lawnmower Run Memorial Lawnmower Run Mayville American Legion Post #493
11/26 Light-A-Life Memorial Service

#### **Dates To Remember**

