

Preparation for 2015 Camp Pathways

By Jonathan Haag, LISW-S, ATR-BC

Pathways Breakaway, funded by community dollars, was held this past January on Martin Luther King Day at the Kettering Recreation Center. Going through this day-long event in age specific groups, 33 kids enjoyed grief activity groups utilizing discussion, art, music, a labyrinth and maze as well as a balloon launch. Fun activities included swimming and ice skating. This event was designed to be a mini-camp experience.

Now with the Breakaway event successfully completed, I am gearing up for Camp Pathways. Although there is a host of tasks and details, the thing I most enjoy about preparing for camp is telling families, children and teens that have never gone before all about it. I say, "Camp Pathways is a wonderful and life changing event that cannot be duplicated in any other way. It is the one weekend of this year where you can have both big fun and the opportunity to pay attention to your grief in meaningful ways."



Camp Pathways offers over 50 campers summer camp fun along with opportunities to explore, share, and gain understanding of their grief experiences. This year's camp is scheduled to begin on Friday morning, June 26 and will end on Sunday afternoon, June 28. Supervised outdoor group activities such as swimming, fishing, canoeing, a climbing wall and ropes courses provide fun and healthy distractions. Grief group support activities, evening campfires, art, music, and a memorial service provide opportunities to pay attention to and express grief.

Lasting Friendship

By Jonathan Haag, LISW-S, ATR-BC



In January, 1997, a group of widows and widowers gathered at Pathways of Hope to help support each other after the loss of their spouse. Each of them had said goodbye to the most important person in their life in the previous fall. Brenda Heiser was among them.

"There were seven of us in the original group of participants," she recalls, "four ladies and three gentlemen." "After the meetings we would often meet for dinner." The bonds formed among the group were strong. That was 18 years ago. Brenda explains that they have supported each other through many changes over those years. "We have since lost two of our very dear friends within the group with whom we shared so many great memories. Each of our lives has taken a different course, but we have maintained our close friendships with each other throughout these past 18 years."

"Despite a beginning that began in sadness", Brenda says the experience has enriched their lives immeasurably. "We each endured such overwhelming personal sorrow at the time, but thanks to Hospice, our lives have been richly blessed by the friendships we have shared all these years!"

The Manager's Priority

By Charles Dawes, Associate Director of Development

Although I have not been at the shops long, it has been a privilege to interact with our donors, consumers, dealers, and new clientele. Each day that I serve in one of our stores, I make it my priority to express my sincerest thanks to you, our community. It never ceases to amaze me that our operation is made entirely possible by our generous community. We never purchase inventory, but we always find ourselves receiving wonderful donations of quality merchandise and antiques, and we continue to welcome new faces that are looking for great deals that will benefit others. Heirlooms donors and shoppers are truly remarkable people with warm and generous hearts, and I personally thank each of you for your repeat visits and your great feedback concerning the redesign of our Kettering Store. Your support helps us raise thousands of dollars that help patients and their families; we thank you for your grace since it continues to advance the mission of one of our nation's leading hospices, Hospice of Dayton.

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Hope Society Members

By Lori Poelking-Igel, Director, Leadership Giving

Hospice of Dayton would like to recognize members of a special group, the Hope Society. Thank you for being a part of this annual membership benefitting the Hospice of Dayton Community. For information on how to become a member, contact Lori Poelking-Igel at 937-723-2891.

ASPIRATION LEVEL

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Robert H. Brethen Foundation
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Hospice of Dayton Journey is published quarterly for patients, families, staff members and friends of Hospice of Dayton, Inc.

Kent Anderson, President/CEO
Brenda Humfleet, President Hospice of Dayton Foundation

Founded in 1978, Hospice of Dayton had served more than 109,000 families. Send suggestions and comments to Lori Poelking-Igel, Director, Leadership Giving. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call us at 937-258-5537 or visit www.hospiceofdayton.org and choose the newsletter link and follow instructions for removal. Copyright © 2015 Ohio's Hospice, Inc. All rights reserved.



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Honor Flight, Remembering Our Veterans

By Sharon Metcalf, MSW, LSW, Manager of Social Workers

On November 8, 2014 I was blessed to act as Guardian for one of our Hospice of Dayton patients, Ella Simpkins, on the last Dayton Honor Flight. The Honor Flight's mission is to take Veterans of WWII, the Korean and Vietnam wars to Washington, D.C., for a chance to see our National Memorials. This was a long one day trip beginning at 3:30 a.m. and ending at midnight with an emotional "welcome home" at the Dayton Airport.

Ella was one of five women among the 95 Veterans on this trip. Ella was a WAC during the Berlin Crisis. She entered the military at 17 (with her parents' permission) and served with special clearance in communications, traveling to Germany just prior to the Vietnam War. Ella's duties contributed to the exemplary heritage of women in military service.

The Dayton Honor Flight's entourage of three tour buses had a police escort throughout our time in Washington. Ella was especially impressed by the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Wall and Korean Memorial. Ella and our Dayton Honor Flight Veterans had a front row seat to the Changing of the Guard at Arlington.

A group photo was taken at the Air Force Memorial. Ella and I talked about *Forrest Gump* and other movies she liked, as Ella sat in her wheelchair overlooking the Lincoln Memorial's reflecting pool.

From our arrival in Washington to our homecoming reception in Dayton, I was brought to tears by the outpouring

of appreciation by civilians and the level of professional respect demonstrated by our military personnel. I was told that the large groups of service men and women who welcomed us home as we stepped off the plane came to Dayton Airport two hours early to ensure they could meet us at the gate. I was unprepared for the Color Guard, countless military personnel and hundreds of civilians waiting in the Dayton Airport Terminal to say "Thank you" to our Veterans.





A Collaboration

By Kent Anderson, President/CEO

Hospice of Dayton has joined with Ohio's other largest hospice provider, Hospice of the Western Reserve, in a collaborative initiative to ensure delivery of the highest quality of care for all Ohioans. Our partnership will focus on creating "best practice standards" for hospice and palliative care, proactively sharing quality data, benchmarking performance to continuously improve care delivery to create the most skilled workforce.

Phase one of the partnership will emphasize the sharing of best practices, integration of evidence-based care, standardization of education, enhancement of community advocacy activities and the promotion of world-class hospice care across Ohio. New programs for disease management and high-risk care management will also be initiated in partnership with health systems and managed care providers. Future initiatives will focus on refining operating efficiencies, sharing electronic medical records with our partners in care, and elevating the presence of best practice hospice care.

As not-for-profit, mission-driven, community organizations, Hospice of Dayton and Hospice of the Western Reserve are proud to be counted among the nation's legacy providers with decades of experience and service to the Northeastern, Southwestern and Central communities of Ohio. We are grateful to the communities we serve for their continued support and faith in our mission and services.



The Best Things

By Brenda C. Humfleet, President, Hospice of Dayton Foundation

Amidst the chaos of daily living, we sometimes forget to stop to enjoy the best things about each day. Peggy Anderson authored a book entitled, "The Best Things in Life Aren't Things". She reminds us that at the end of our lives, we

will attach little importance to much of what we spend so much time worrying about. Ms. Anderson says, "Our lives become meaningful when we focus on those essentials that enrich the lives of others and in return, enrich our own lives."

Living a life where we remain true to our core values of kindness, faith, family, friendship, and love brings meaning and purpose to our existence on this earth. Each of us face times of adversity. Adversity doesn't build character, it reveals it. My mother's favorite saying was, "It could always be worse." She strongly believed in the power of having a faith-based, positive attitude and giving back to help others whose problems were probably bigger than ours.

Steins, Stems & Savories... A Party for your Senses!

By Marsha Bernard, Manager, Special Events



Hospice of Dayton is proud to present STEINS, STEMS & SAVORIES, a party for your senses featuring a line-up of savory, gourmet delights from Dayton's top locally owned restaurants.

Enjoy culinary masterpieces paired with an outpouring of wines and craft beers as you sway to the best jazz the area has to offer.

This first annual event is slated for April 25, 2015 from 7 to 11 pm, at the America's Packard Museum located at 420 Ludlow St., Dayton, Ohio with convenient valet parking. Seating is limited so reserve your ticket now!

Experience the best of Dayton in one night featuring: Coco's Bistro, Coldwater Café, El Meson, Meadowlark, Roost, Rue Dumaine and Zetland Street. Wine provided by Rumbleseat and craft beers provided by Warped Wing and 5th Street Brewery.

Tickets are \$90 per person with \$70 of each ticket being tax deductible. Tickets may be purchased online at hospiceofdayton.org, or by contacting the Hospice of Dayton Foundation at 937-723-2895. Hospice of Dayton provides services to over 5,000 patients a year and is committed to providing exceptional care to those facing life threatening illnesses. We are committed to advocacy of those in need, while dedicating ourselves to providing comfort, dignity and privacy to those we serve. All proceeds benefit patient care.

10 Years and counting...

By Marsha Bernard, Manager, Special Events

Hospice of Dayton Foundation and Merrill Lynch's –The Schade Team proudly presents the 10th Annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 8, 2015 at Sycamore Creek Country Club in Springboro, Ohio.

Join us for a fun-filled 18-hole scramble at this top-tier golf outing. The event begins at 11:00 am with registration and lunch, followed by a shotgun start at 12:30 pm. Back to the clubhouse for an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and a sit-down dinner and awards banquet. The cost is \$350, \$240 is tax-deductible, per golfer. This fee includes registration, lunch, dinner and a commemorative gift. Everyone ends up a winner at this event with challenges and prizes at every hole. Celebrate our milestone 10th year with us in a champagne toast to those who helped make this possible.



The 2015 Golf Classic is limited to a maximum of 124 players, don't wait, and reserve your spot today! All proceeds of this event support Hospice of Dayton's extraordinary care and services that we provide to our patients and families. For more information on how your company can partner with Hospice of Dayton visit our website at hospiceofdayton.org or call 937-723-2895.

Sweet 16 Birthday

By Linda Corey Simpson, Hospice Houses Volunteer Specialist

Instead of a typical Sweet 16 birthday party, Madison Dox wanted to honor the memory of her grandfather, who recently passed at our Dayton Hospice House in October, 2014. Fifteen Oakwood High School sophomores joined Madison at Hospice of Dayton on Sunday, January 18th, to celebrate her 16th birthday and to celebrate the lives of our patients and their families. They painted 71 flower pots as part of our "Remember a Loved One" program, where family members can visit our Solarium and take home the start of a Hospice plant. What a unique, caring young lady! Happy Birthday, Madison!



Sweet Sorority Sisters

By Vicky Forrest, Director of Mission & Public Information

Over 87 pounds of butter, 142 pounds of sugar, 120 cans of condensed sweetened milk, and nine gallons of corn syrup equals over \$2,600 in donations to the Hospice of Dayton mission. That's the short version of the story to this year's 382 pounds of caramel sales by the Epsilon Lambda sorority. This group of sorority sisters has been together for sixty years. Founded by Sally Frost because she wanted to keep her group of high school friends together, they have raised their children together, maintained friendships and contributed countless hours to good works and deeds in support of Hospice of Dayton as well as other local charities. They presented a check to the Foundation for the proceeds of their annual caramel sale during the annual Volunteer Holiday Luncheon and have raised a total of \$29,250 since 1999.

